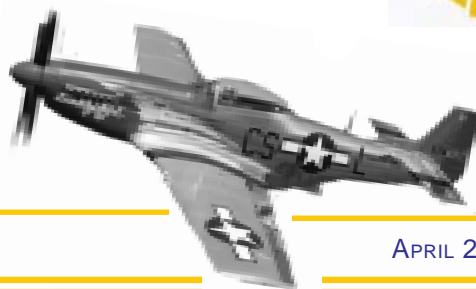


THE OUTER CIRCLE



359TH FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION
WORLD WAR II

STATION F133 - EAST WRETHAM, ENGLAND



VOLUME 16, No. 2

Cum Leone

APRIL 2005

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359th F.G. Reunion

My Kind of Town

September 15-18, 2005

Frank Sinatra said Chicago had “razzmatazz” and “all that jazz.” No question, the upcoming 359th Reunion is set in a dynamic location.

This year the Group will rendezvous in the American heartland. The Windy City is “blowing” a proper welcome our way as **Tom and Sandy Mettel** finalize plans.

Chicago offers some wonderful cultural attractions as the Group will see in September. Perhaps its most identifiable claim to fame resides in its architecture. The 359th will sample this on an Architectural Cruise, according to President Tom. Called “the birthplace of the skyscraper,” Chicago boasts of its scenic views and dramatic skyline.

Also on the Reunion schedule is a visit to the

Cantigny Museum, preserving the history of the *Big Red One*, the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army.

Of course the city is also home to the Art Institute of Chicago, Wrigley Field, Chicago Symphony, Lyric Opera, and a host of blues and jazz clubs. The world’s largest and most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex is on display at the Field Museum.

Make plans now to come visit with old friends and explore the best of Chicago. (Continued on pg. 6.)



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You've Got Mail

"Hi. I read with interest the brief history of Station 133/359th F. G. (in) the recent *Outer Circle* and felt a need to respond. So here goes...

"I served at East Wretham from its activation to almost the end in several capacities. First as the Communications Officer for the 368th. Second, as a Flying Control Officer to the end of the War. Third as A/C Supply Officer during the redeployment period. Lastly, as Adjutant 648th Air Material Squadron until transferred to USAFE. In these capacities I became familiar with most activities on base particularly those relating to the Servicing

Squadrons (non-flying).

"The ground support units referred to were not activated until the end of the War - (reference special order enclosed dated April 1945) which completely reassigned all support personnel to an Air Corps unit.

"The original units were

395 th Service Sqn - 85 th Service Gp	1833 Ordinance Supply Co
85 th Hq Hq Sqn, 85 Service Gp	1065 Quartermaster Co
49 th Station Complement Sqn	1141 MP Co
1101 Signal Co	2040 Engr Avn Platoon

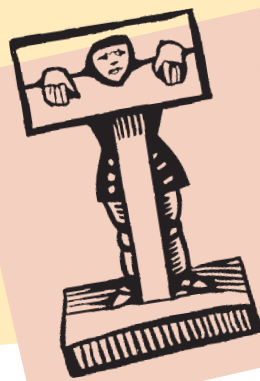
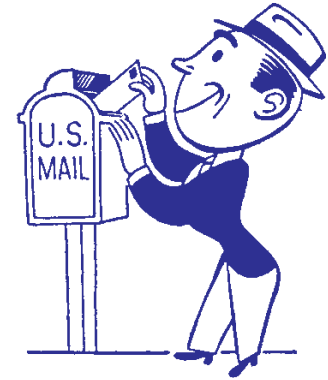
"No one left the station, they just took off their various corp emblems and put on the Air Corp.

"The order (sent to the Group Historian) was part of a 15-pg document which if complete would identify all personnel not part of the 359th assigned to the Station.

"At about this time or shortly thereafter the redeployment program was implemented. High pointers went home and various catagories of lower pointers went to the Occupation or Marseilles, France. Needless to say the base was in a problem mode for some time.

"Since I had departed for USAFE I do not know the events taking place during demobilization ... I am proud of my service and the entire gang from F-133!"

Respectfully,
Fred P. Renken, L/COL USAF RET
215 Robin Drive • Souderton, PA 18964-2093



From the Editor:
It has come to our attention that the January Outer Circle listed the address of our noble president, **Tom Mettel**, incorrectly. The error has been corrected and those responsible have been reprimanded. ~Gigi

The Soul of Our Nation

From Hap Harris

"[Here] rests the soul of our nation. Here also should be our conscience."
Caspar Weinberger, U.S. Secretary of Defense, Arlington National Cemetery, 1986

VETERANS HONORED THROUGH TIME

"(On) the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, our nation will remember its veterans across our land and at posts overseas with military honors, parades, and speeches. These remembrances are not a modern matter. Veterans are mentioned in the Bible many times.

"... the Bible tells us of an early warrior for justice – Gideon – who, with only 300 men, defeated thousands of Midianites in a great army in the Middle East and brought peace to the people of Israel hundreds of years before Jesus' wonderful work in the Holy Land.

A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE

"It is sad indeed that Eusebius, the Bishop of Caesarea in ancient Roman-controlled Palestine, known as the 'Father of Church History,' had to record dreadful stories of the Christian martyrs in the crucial first three centuries that extend from Christ to the Emperor Constantine.

"We in this great country are also in our first few hundred years of a great movement in world history – the emergence and growth of Democracy and religious freedom secured by men and women of our armed forces with the same dedication and tenacity of the ancient leader Gideon. Our citizen soldiers, sailors, marines, and later, airmen and women, have fought from our frontiers' French and Indian Wars to this day with courage, skill, and love of country against tyrannical governments, warlords, pirates, and fanatical, hateful, murderous groups who claim their religion is their guiding force in the modern world.

A TIME FOR UNWAVERING SUPPORT

"Each of us, whether veteran or not, must remember and support our Armed Forces and their unpaid auxiliaries of the Coast Guard and the Air Force's Civil Air Patrol; and give thanks for the good chaplains with them all. At this very moment our American troops, our future

veterans, and their allied forces, are deep in a relentless, difficult war in Iraq, a grinding campaign in Afghanistan, and round-the-clock duty in the world's oceans aboard our Navy and Coast Guard ships. All of us must support the ongoing efforts to help the current group of wounded veterans, – over 10,000 of them – get needed help for treatment, plus jobs, education, and assistance for their families. We must not forget the holiday packages to service men and women both here and overseas!

"President Abraham Lincoln addressed a similar subject in his 1863 Gettysburg Address when he said 'It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth!'" ★

Hap Harris
15100 Wannas Drive
Accokeek, Maryland 20607-9752

(Hap is the last surviving member of the 5-person 369th F.S. Intelligence Office. He was editor of the Flight Patterns newsletter, predecessor to the Outer Circle. He is a Certified Lay Speaker of the Baltimore/Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church. This article is from a Veteran's Day speech, presented in Fort Washington, MD, Nov. 2004)



pg. 3

CO-FOUNDERS

Tony Chardella
Floyd Myers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leon Levitt
Andrew Lemmens
John Baldrige
Lawrence Beaupre
Randall Jennings
Char Baldrige
Gigi Paddock

359TH F.G.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Randall Jennings, 2004
Lawrence Beaupre, 2003
John Baldrige, 2002
Arvy Kysely, 2001
Andrew Lemmens, 2000
Leon Levitt, 1999
John McAlevey, 1998
Tom Morris, 1997
Bill Stepp, 1996
Gene Surowiec, 1995
George Doersch, 1994
Andrew Lemmens, 1992/93
Earl Adkins, 1991
Jack Bateman, 1990
Martha Staley, 1989
Robert York, 1988
Larry Bouchard, 1987
Charles Morton, 1985/86
Joe Meisl, 1983/84
John Oliphint, 1981/82
Robert Gaines, 1979/80
William R. Rufe, 1977/78
Anthony Macari, 1975/76
Anthony Chardella, 1973/74
Floyd Myers, 1973/74

pg. 4

New Members

George J. Papagiannes
8434 273rd Avenue
Salem, WI 53768-9477
(262) 889.4637
(son of S/Sgt James G.
Papagiannes, 369th F.S.)

E-Mail Address Updates

Curt Jennings
Curtis.Jennings@bmwfs.com

George J. Papagiannes
geopapas@aol.com

Harry "Doug" Tanner
dougntanner@xpedius.net

John W. Wilson
jwilson511@comcast.net

Don S. Windmiller
windman@evansville.net

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Michigan City, IN 46360-1841

Molly Barnett Francis
3083 Buckingham
Berkley, MI 48072

Steven M. Francis
165 Merryall Rd
New Milford, CT 06776-5209

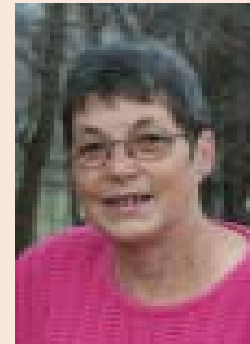
John W. Wilson
1746 Fordham Way
Mountain View, CA 94040-3662

Gregory Watson
151 Sirocco Dr. #2
Minot AFB, ND 58704-1218

**MSgt Bill Wolfinger, USAF
(Ret)**
20213 Robinwood Ct. #407
Hagerstown, MD 21742-8153

Historian Activities Update

from Char Baldrige



Greetings! Here's a briefing on what I've been up to this spring ... besides pruning grape vines.

COPY WORK: **John Baldrige** and I went back to the National Archives in January and spent three days doing copy work. We returned home with 2,450 more 359th F.G. documents copied. Those relevant to **Ted Damick's** data base lists were mailed to him.

✓ **DATA BASE STATUS:** Ted Damick reports:

- **Massed Flight List (MFL):** Data entry for all three squadrons to the war's end in April 1945 is complete, with the exception of two missions where our information is incomplete. The list now contains nearly 17,000 entries. Very shortly the MFL list will be ready for our use.

- **Accidents, Incidents, Missing Aircrew Reports (AIM) list:** Ted is currently half-way through updating this list. Ted's including all the Forced Landings made in England and on the Continent in this list. To date he's added nearly 400 of these forced landings (details for a new resource for these reports next time).

- **Unit Aircraft Inventory Lists** for all three squadrons is done, for both P-47s and P-51s. He's sent the completed aircraft lists on to **Peter Randall** in the U.K. who is reviewing it as a double-check for accuracy. Ted is *research expert* beyond compare!

✓ **GUN CAMERA FILM RESTORATION:** **Steve Rhode** of Rare Aviation sent me the first raw footage DVD of the gun camera film transfer from 4 reels of combat footage. He now

has seven more cannisters of 359th combat film that he is working on. Steve was kind enough to send me a pair of good 16-mm film rewind cranks that are helping immensely with the rest of the films.

✓ **CLARIFICATION:** The brief history of Station-133 in the last *Outer Circle* needed additional explanation relating to the Servicing Squadrons. A big *Thank You* to **Fred P. Renken** for setting the record straight (see letter page 2).

✓ **CONTRIBUTIONS:** **David Crestin**, who is an Associate Member, made a very generous \$100.00 contribution to the history fund. David is a good friend of the **Marvin Boussu** family. His kind help in preserving our history is very much appreciated. *Thank You, David.*

✓ **NEW FAMILY CONTACTS:** Since the last issue of the *Outer Circle*, three family members have contacted me, seeking information on a relative who served with the 359th...

- **James Botsford**, great-nephew of **Raymond L. "Botsy" Botsford**, an original pilot with the 368th F.S. Raymond Botsford was killed in a non-operational plane crash on May 1, 1944, during a training flight in the newly received P-51s. **John and Ruth Oliphint** referred James to me. --->



1LT Raymond
Botsford

• **Jim Wilson**, grandson of **Robert J. "Posty" Booth**. An original pilot with the 369th F.S., Robert J. Booth, was our third highest scoring ACE with 8 kills and he did all of this before being shot down and becoming a P.O.W. on June 8, 1944. Booth and his wife live in CA and he loves to play golf. The Oliphints also referred Jim Wilson to me.



1LT Robert Booth

• **Wes Phillips**, grandson of **Lynn W. Hair** (original pilot with the 370th F.S.). Lynn W. Hair was one of the four pilots who were our first losses on January 11, 1944. Many of you may remember the Thank You letter the men of the 359th F.G. received from **Mrs. Lois Hair** for the \$1,000 war bonds, purchased by contributions from the men of the station, for her two small daughters. Wes is the son of one of the girls, and was referred to me by Ted Damick.



1LT Lynn Hair

Plus an added bonus!

• **D.H. Laing** has been found! He was VERY surprised to hear from the Group Historian! In May of 1944 D.H. had engine failure and his plane went down near Berlin. He was a P.O.W. until May of '45, then returned stateside. He was recalled back into military service and did 2 tours in Japan. He lives in Alabama with his wife of 62 years. If you'd like to write to him:

D.H. Laing
3636 Roswell Pl
Montgomery, AL 36116



2LT D.H. Laing

It doesn't get any better than this! Due to the massive amount of documents and photos collected, transcribed, compiled and/or copied, Ted and I were able to send each of them a lot of pertinent information. That is what this history function is truly all about, connecting with folks and making information available. And all the new contacts have been encouraged to join the 359th F.G. Association and stay in touch!

Special thanks to the Members who've sent in material. This is your history and your efforts will ensure it is recorded with accuracy and proper documentation. A big "Hats Off" to our adjunct historians, Ted Damick and Peter Randall. More Historian Activities in the next issue! ★

~Char Baldridge, 359th F.G. Historian
715 Sardis Road • Amherst, VA 24521



GROUP ROSTERS

Current Group Rosters are available from Roster Custodian **Dorothy Turcotte**.
Send \$5 to:
Dorothy Turcotte
32 Lindbergh Ave., Holyoke, MA 01040

New Life Members

Warner C. Jennings
7777 E. 23rd Ave., Unit 402
Denver, CO 90238-1668
(303) 393.1668

Curtis S. & Anne Jennings
3383 Heritage Oaks Dr.
Hilliard, OH 43026-7833
(614) 876.7043
(son of **Warner Jennings**, 369th)

Robert W. Siltamaki
432 N. Beachwood Drive
Burbank, CA 91506-1938

Wesley Wahlgren
1723 W. Koenig Street
Grand Island, NE 68803-5434
(318) 384.6868
(Nephew of

Merle [Tot] Aunspaug, 368th)

Prayer Requests



• for **Helen Burtner**
- recovering from back surgery.

• for **CPL Corey James McAlevey**, grandson of **John McAlevey**
- Corey is in the 82nd Airborne heading to Afghanistan this spring.

• for **Chuck Staley**
- home now, recovering from heart surgery.

pg. 6

French Town Honors 359th Pilot John Marr

A trip back in time becomes a dream come true



It can be a humbling moment to face one's past. In 1985, forty years after his fighter plane was shot down over southern France, **John Marr** went back to Europe in search of the people and places he remembered from his fateful first combat mission as a 23-year-old pilot. His son, **Greg**, and daughter-in-law, **Lucy**, accompanied him. And now, 60 years after the plane went down, John shares his journey with the *Outer Circle*.

Returning to France had been a long-time dream for John, who has lived since 1946 in Tallahassee, Fla., where he retired from the hotel business.

The 359th Reunion ('85) in England was all the excuse needed for John's long-awaited return to France. After the Reunion, which included dedicating memorials in two English towns and establishing the Group Scholarship Fund for needy students, John headed across the English Channel in search of his past.

Back in 1945, John was flying his first combat mission when his P-51 plane was struck by German anti-aircraft fire. "I got shot at frequently flying down the coast because there were pockets of Germans bottled up all along the French coast from D-Day. We overran them so quickly at the terrible loss of so many lives ..." After ensuring that his failing plane would not destroy any homes, he was forced to bail out, severely injuring his leg, which later required complicated surgeries and months of physical therapy.

When John landed, he found himself above the main street of a small French town. His parachute

had snagged on a utility pole, which left the injured airman dangling near a second-story window of a downtown building – unable to climb up or down.

"At first I didn't know what to expect. If the Germans had caught me I probably would have been shot on sight," he added.

The local Resistance was monitoring the descent of his parachute and instead of Germans, it was residents of the town who came to John's assistance, pulling him into the building's window.

He was whisked off to a French military hospital in the care of a countess, Madam la Comtesse de Dampierre, who was involved in the Maquis. Quick attention to his injuries probably saved his leg.

While in the French hospital, John was tended by French nurses and aides. They spoke little English and he made a deal with them. He'd give them access to his parachute (made of nylon, much sought-after then) and teach them a bit of English if they brought him champagne. He had no regrets about such an offer since he was in a hospital with amputees all around him, endless pain, and little medication available. After about a month in the French hospital, John was flown to England and then back to the U.S.

"Those people risked their well-being by befriending me. They were very receptive when they found I was an American. I always wanted to go back to tell them 'thank you,'" he reflected.

But when John returned to France in 1985 he didn't remember the name of the town where he landed decades earlier. Coopera-

tion from locals and a bit of sleuthing got him to the right place, St. Genis de Saintonge, where he found the countess' chateau and learned she'd passed away. John and his family soon met an elderly couple. "The old man remembered seeing me come down. He even pointed out the pole I got caught on. Then he showed me the pull on the door to his house, made from my airplane – the landing gear. It was absolutely a fairytale come true."

The man took him to a wooded area at the outskirts of town and showed him a crater where his plane had crashed. Digging around, they found more scraps. John's son, Greg, was at least as excited as his dad at seeing the distant past come right up out of the ground.

John Marr was interviewed by the St. Genis newspaper *Hebdo* during this time. When the story appeared the paper added a message of deepest appreciation to "Mr. John" on behalf of the town, for his service during W.W. II. ★

Sources: *The Republic*, Columbus, Indiana, Dec. 22, 1985; *St. Genis Hebdo*, August 14, 1985; *W.W. II Project Oral History (Interview with John Marr)*, 1999.

John Marr
1111 Brookwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Memories of a West Wretham Boy

(1943-45)

from John Pidd

pg. 7

I lived approximately 200 yards from Wretham Hall. I lived with my father and mother in a bungalow; one would pass this on the way to the old ruined church (mentioned in *The Mad Rebel* by **John Oliphint** – where he buried a finger. I'm proud to say I have a signed copy of this book).

My father was a truck driver transporting vegetables to Covent Garden Market in London. He also transported rabbits, hares, pheasants, pigeons, and ducks to Smithfield meat market six nights a week, spending many nights underneath his truck during the bombing raids.

Mother was a trained seamstress and did alternations to the officers' jackets, cutting the bottoms off, changing them into battle jackets (some of you will remember having this done).

Us kids were so excited the Americans were here, or as we called you, "Yanks." And you called us "Limeys." The smart uniforms and the America twang and all the new words we had to learn such as gum, gas, hood, trunk, sidewalk, garbage, freeway, candy, cookies – all new words to us.

I spent all of my spare time visiting the Hall and chatting to the young officers. Mostly I spent time in an annex at the back of the Hall on the right of the back door. It billeted six Lieutenants, very young men (as most of you were). I soon got very friendly with them. They gave me candy and gum and the first time I met them I got asked the same question: have you got a big sister? – which I did not have. At the time I could not understand why they looked so disappointed, but as years passed, I now know. **Leon Levitt** was one of these men. Leon and I have kept in touch since 1985; I met him and his wife **Dorothy** at Cambridge

during the 359th Reunion. I also met **Lon Beaupre** and **Randy Jennings** on a later visit to Wretham to view the old airfield. I've met many more over the years; sorry if I cannot remember your names.

2LT D. H. Laing, from Montgomery, Alabama, was a close friend to my father. His mother sent us a lovely Christmas cake and, as we were on rations at the time, it was a big treat. When it was reported that he was a P.O.W. we did not hear from him or his family again. We always wondered what happened to him. (update on D.H. Laing on page 5.)

I also remember the lovely Christmas parties you all used to lay on for us kids. It was something that we looked forward to each year.

I remember being given a crossbow (the bow part was made of a single leaf of a car spring). I had a job to load it but managed it somehow; the stock was very well made just as it had been manufactured.

I was also given a rifle; I think



it was a 303 (the firing pin had been removed, thank God).

I used to clean shoes for the young Lieutenants. Once I went into the cupboard to get the boot polish and brushes and I saw running about was a small mouse. I grabbed him and to my surprise and pain he grabbed me back. I think my yell was heard all over the Hall (I still have the scar on the end of my finger). The next thing, three of the officers and I went hunting, one with a long bow, another with a 45 colt, and the last one had a carbine. We went to the battle training area where we came across a fox and after a chase he was shot. My souvenir was its tail, which I put inside my shirt (silly boy). On returning home, mother had a fit; there were fleas all over me and, just as well it was summer, as all my clothes had to be taken off, and there I was in the nude in the backyard for a wash down with a hose pipe, and all my clothes were put in the wash (didn't do that again).

The cinema truck used to pick up the young officers and take them to East Wretham camp to the old Ors Dining Room which turned into a cinema in the evening (60 years later and still there). I used to catch a lift and get to see the films and get a "hiding" when I got home late. By the way it was a waste of time after the war was over, going to the cinema in Thetford. All the films showing I had seen years before!

It was down there I had my first taste of draft Coca-Cola in a small hut near the cinema. I can still taste it. I have never tasted Coca-Cola as good as that since.

On a hot Sunday morning a car horn was being blown outside

pg. 8

Taps



Ida Del Bonis
wife of Bernard
Hqs - 2004

JoAnn (Jody) Braymen
wife of Kenneth
370th - 9/25/04



Will D. Burgsteiner
370th - 4/18/05



Arthur J. Giese, Jr.
370th - 1/09/05

Richard E. Herbster
369th - 5/31/04



Charles W. Mosse
368/369th - 1/13/05

our house, on looking out there was a Jeep with a big tub on the back seat full of ice cream. The driver said to mum, "M'am get a bowl for --> some ice cream." Mother not being greedy got a small bowl, but on her return was told "that's not big enough m'am." We had ice cream for dinner, tea, and when it had melted, I drank it.

The road from the Hall to the airfield was not very wide so the bad boys had the job of widening it by 2 feet each side. They were guarded by M.P.s with Winchester shot guns to make sure they did not do a runner. We as kids used to call the M.P. "mud pushers." Their reply was, "No, it stands for 'Mother's Pet.' The road widening carried on all the way to Thetford. And was done in concrete, and is still in good condition.

I was not normally allowed in the Bar in the Hall but on one occasion I did sneak in, they had a hedgehog (or was it a porcupine?). They had given him a drink. I bet he had a hangover the next day. I have been trying for years to get a photo of an aerial dogfight on the right hand wall as you went in the main ballroom. It was approximately 20 feet x 12 feet, and a credit to whomever painted it (**Char** sent him an old grainy photo).

The Barroom was on the left of the main ballroom and the Debriefing was on the right. I used to look in sometimes and can remember seeing the gun camera films. The atmosphere was normally very jolly if you had not lost any of the guys. But on one occasion it was that quiet you could hear a pin drop. I found out later you had heavy losses on that day. Well, I hope this has not been too boring and I have brought back some good memories.

The Americans were and still are more than ever part of my life and I have made many more new friends in the U.S.A.

A few years ago I was honoured by being given Life Membership in the 359th F.G. Association. And to top it all off, my lovely daughter married an American some 16 years ago. We now have two grandsons and a granddaughter. At present he is stationed at Lajes Field in the Azores (Portugal) with the family. He has the rank of M/Sgt and



his trade is in airframes in the metal shop. We also have a son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons who live in Thetford. **Gerry**, my wife, and I have been to your country five times over the years. What a lovely country and the people were so friendly and made us feel so at ease.

All the very best to you all from a very grateful "limey" for all the bravery and sacrifice you all made some 60 years ago. God bless you all and a Happy New Year. ★

John Pidd
2 Cherry Tree Close
E. Wretham, Thetford
Norfolk IP24 14S England
email: J.pidd@whsmithnet.co.uk

*"O memory!
Thou midway world
'Twixt earth
and paradise,
Where things
decayed
And loved ones lost
In dreamy shadows
Rise."*

Abraham Lincoln
(1809-1865)

News on the Fly

pg. 9

Items from Out & About



Seeking Information: Lt. Luther C. Reese

From **Tony Chardella**:

“Just got a call from a fellow by the name of **Terry Reese**. His brother was in the 370th Squadron: **Lt. Luther C. Reese**, pilot, K.I.A. on July 21, 1944. He is seeking pilots who flew with his brother or any information.”

Contact: Terry Reese

486 Blackcreek Church Road, Pembroke, Georgia 31321

The Beaupre Bench

Leon Levitt sent this in: this bench sits on the edge of a field in Wretham. It was installed in 2001 with the assistance of **Bill Welbourne** of the Fenland Aviation Museum and 359th Life Member **John Pidd**. The inscription reads: “In Loving Memory, **Robert Vincent Beaupre** K.I.A. 6 Jan 1945, 1LT 359th Fighter Group, U.S.A.A.F. East Wretham.” **Lon Beaupre** and family are extremely grateful for the help and friendship of the Welbourne and Pidd families. Photo – and daffodils – care of John Pidd.



Clothes Make the Man

From **Tim Gagnon**: “I’d like to share this with the 359th F.G. This is my leather jacket with the 368th insignia. It is also our KY Air National Guard patch from the early days!”

On the Mend

Martha & Chuck Staley send their greetings to the Group. After his heart surgery in January, Chuck stayed with daughter Lisa (Ohio), attending therapy and recuperating. Just before this issue went to press he headed home to Wisconsin. The Staley family greatly appreciates the well-wishes and prayers of everyone.



Lighten the Load

Windy City Trivia

1772 A black fur trader from Haiti, Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable, founded "Eschikagou" on the north bank of the Chicago River.

1871 The Great Chicago Fire destroyed 3.5 square miles of the city, killing perhaps 250. Sparks started forest fires that destroyed more than a million acres of Michigan and Wisconsin timberland. (In 1997 Mrs. O'Leary's cow was absolved of all blame for the Great Fire.)

1891 The typhoid death rate was 174 per 100,000 persons. Diseases resulting from water polluted by human waste brought about a state of emergency.

1893 Black surgeon Dr. Daniel H. Williams performed the world's first open-heart surgery, saving the life of a street fighter with a knife wound near his heart.

The World's Columbian Exposition attracted 27 million visitors - 1/2 of the U.S. population (then).

New York Sun editor Charles Dana, tired of hearing Chicagoans boast of the Exposition, dubbed Chicago the "Windy City."

1900 The flow of the Chicago River was reversed, a massive engineering feat, reducing disease epidemics caused by poor sewers.

1922 Louis Armstrong, of "King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band", became a mainstay in Chicago and helped to usher in the Jazz Age.

1929 Gang warfare reached a peak of brutality on St. Valentine's Day when 7 members of the George "Bugs" Moran gang were killed by rival mobsters in a garage.

John Graves Shedd presented the Shedd Aquarium as "a gift to the people of Chicago," the world's largest indoor aquarium.

1934 John Dillinger was shot by the F.B.I. in the alley next to the Biograph Theater on Lincoln Ave.

1942 The tradition of organ music at baseball games began when the Chicago Cubs installed an organ at Wrigley Field.

1949 Originally called Orchard Place, O'Hare Airport was named in honor of Lieut. Commander Edward H. "Butch" O'Hare who earned a Congressional Medal of Honor in 1942 for shooting down five Japanese bombers and crippling a sixth, but died in 1943 at the age of 29.

Chicago Municipal Airport was renamed Midway to honor the Battle of Midway, 1942.

1971 Sears Tower opened with 3.6 million square feet of rentable space. The \$200 million 110-story structure rises 1,455 feet into the sky.

359th Fighter Group Association

The Outer Circle

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