



CERIGNOLA CONNECTION

455th Bomb Group Association Newsletter

Summer 2003 - Editor, Craig Ward, 813 Peterstow Drive, Eules, Texas 76039 (817) 540-1068

aphp@comcast.net

Tom Ramey, Editor of the *Cerignola Connection* and the 455th Bomb Group History, Makes His "Final Flight"

Tom Ramey, the only Editor that the *Cerignola Connection* had, made his "Final Flight", Saturday evening, 5 April 2003.

Tom graduated with the last class of Flying Sergeants trained as pilots. He was then assigned to Tucson Army Air Base for training as pilot in B-24's. There, on 26 June 1943, he married his girlfriend, Pearl Mueller. From Tucson, he was assigned to the 302 Bomb Group at Clovis Army Air Base in Clovis NM., as a flight instructor. Tom joined the 455th Bomb Group with a crew a few weeks later, and flew overseas as a "First Pilot" along with others, to Cerignola, Italy. Tom completed 42 missions successfully. On his 43th mission, 3 August 1944, he was shot down and spent the remainder of the war as a "guest" of the Germans. At the end of the war, Tom left the service, but continued with Wisconsin National Guard. During the Korean conflict he was recalled to active duty. He retired from the Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Tom received the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster; the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and several campaign and service medals.

After retirement from the Air Force, Tom held various management positions in marketing and advertising. Lastly, he was the founder and president of "Creative Dimensions", a national advertising agency. Tom also served as President of the Appleton, Wisconsin Rotary Club. Tom was a gardener extraordinaire and a devout sport fisherman.

Tom was a devoted Editor of the *Cerignola Connection* for 18 years. He had a stroke shortly after turning in, for printing, the Spring issue of the *Cerignola Connection*. He asked to continue as Editor of the *Cerignola Connection*. We agreed, and just before he finished the Fall issue of the *Cerignola Connection*, he had another minor stroke. This caused a delay in mailing the Fall issue. The Spring Issue of the *Cerignola Connection* went to press on time, but a couple of days later, Tom went to the hospital with pneumonia. He never recovered, and passed away during the evening of 5 April 2003.

Tom is survived by his wife, Pearl, their daughter Jeanne, and son, Tom.

Tom Ramey will be greatly missed by the 455th Bomb Group Association.

From Your President

Shortly after Tom Ramey sent the Spring Edition of the *Cerignola Connection* to press, he died. As the voice of the 455th Bomb Group Association, the sole editor of the *Cerignola Connection* from it's birth, our group obviously has lost a crucial element of our organization. In many ways, through the newsletter, he was the cement that strengthened our bonds. In addition to the *Cerignola Connection*, he together with Al Asch, and Hugh Graff assembled, wrote, and published the excellent 455th Bomb Group History. We are saddened by this loss. Our sympathy is proffered to his widow Pearl, and the rest of his family. We are grateful for all of his contributions to our Association, and to this nation.

With the arrival of this edition of the *Cerignola Connection* you must have noticed we have a new editor, Craig Ward. He is the son of the late Lt. John T. Ward, 740th Squadron. Craig came to our rescue, and agreed to edit and publish the *Cerignola Connection*. He will need stories, pictures, and articles for future issues. Send them to him for his consideration for inclusion in the newsletter. I am extremely grateful that he agreed to take on this assignment. I'm sure all of you are also.

Frank Lashinsky, President

1944 Prices

Average income.....\$2,378
New Car.....\$975
New House.....\$3,475
Loaf of bread.....10 cents
Gallon of milk.....62 cents
Gold per ounce.....\$35
Silver per ounce.....71 cents
Dow Jones Average.....143

Final Flights

Joseph B Cadwalader, 7/5/2003, Staff Sergeant, 740th squadron, ball turrett gunner on the "*Linda Ann*" B-24.

John I. "Jim" Merritt, Jr., 1/24/2003, First Lt., B-24, 741st squadron, pilot.

Nicholas Corbo, 10/3/2002, T. Sergeant, 741st squadron, flight engineer.

Our hearts are with and sympathies go to the loved ones of the 455th GB members.

"Roll Call" Addition

The following members of the 455th BG, 741st squadron were erroneously left off the "Roll Call" list from the previous *Cerignola Connection*:

Anthony Fogel, 1st Lt., Bombardier
Victor McWilliams, Captain, Pilot
Glen Mensinger, 1st Lt., CoPilot
Roscoe Wilkes, 1st Lt., Navigator
Victor Eggemeyer, Sergeant
Robert Hardy, Sergeant
Chester Miller, Sergeant
Harry McDowell, Sergeant
Daniel Raginsky, Sergeant
Joseph Refinsky

Editors note: The 455th BG members listed above were shot down over Ploesti and became POW's in Romania on May 5th, 1944.

President.....Francis J. Lashinsky
Vice President.....Stanley M. Iverson
Secretary.....Carl R. Loiocano
Treasurer.....Gus H. Wendt, Jr.
Director.....Jack F. Blum
Director.....Roderick W. Clarke
Director.....John F. Davis
Director.....David J. Frawley
Director.....William B. Gemmill
Director.....James D. Gould
Director.....Edward C. Micak
Director.....John W. Nash
Director.....James H. Smith
Director.....Elfred J. Specht
Exec. Dir.....Gus H. Wendt Jr.

Changes to the 455th BG Association By-Laws:

During the forthcoming membership meeting in Orlando, the following changes to our By-Laws will be proposed and discussed:

- (a): Associate members may become regular members of the Association.
- (b). The Board of Directors has the authority to amend the By-Laws of the 455th Bomb Group Association.

Born in 1944

Danny DeVito
Brenda Lee
Diana Ross
Michael Douglas
Gladys Knight
Tony Orlando

World War II veteran ranks are declining rapidly. I have opened a dialogue with the 454th Bomb Group Association with regard to have separate reunions at a hotel jointly by the 455th Bomb Group Association and the 454th Bomb Group Association.

You will recall that the 454th and the 455th Bomb Groups shared a common location, at San Giovanni in Cerignola Italy. We had separate parallel runways, and our military installations were also separate, and equal. Cooperating together, we were also independent. In this respect, we share a common, but separate, past. It would be logical to share a common future.

The advantages of having joint, but separate reunions would be, as a larger group, we, or our representative Armed Forces Reunions, would have more clout in getting us lower hotel rates and better accommodations. It would also expand the choices for field trips and keep prices lower. We could both continue to have our separate meetings, banquets and any other function. We could also arrange joint functions if we decided it was desirable.

The 454th Bomb Group meets every year, we would continue meeting every second year, for now.

This proposal will be on the agenda for members consideration at the meeting in Florida.

Frank Lashinsky, President

The photo pages on future editions of this newsletter will contain what we hope will be an interesting new feature for the Cerignola Connection: Can you name any of the people or places in the following photographs? If you recognize someone or something, please notify your editor. Please include the photo number, the person's position in the picture, and any other information you have about the image. If you have 455th BG photos with unidentified persons or places, please send them to your editor. We'll get them in the next available future edition!



A gift to the Axis war machine ...
courtesy of the Red, White, & Blue!

(1)



Looks like a training flight over Arizona ???

(2)



The calm before the storm ...

(3)



In tight formation, now

CROSS YOUR LEGS!

(4)

Do you recognize anyone?



(5)



(6)



Bucket O' Bolts

Lt. Carlton Hansen (top left), Lt. J.T. Ward (top, 2nd from left). Can you provide names of any of the rest of this crew?

Please send them along to the Editor!

455th – E-Mail Address Roster

Below is a listing of e-mail address' of 455th members that were sent to us for publication in the *Cerignola Connection*. If you want your e-mail address included in this roster, please send it to your Editor.

William A. Arnold (743), Apalachin, NY.....Jarnold77@juno.com
Harry W. Anderson (740), San Antonio, TX.....pomganny@aol.com
Gene V. Benson (740) Livingston,.....dayflyguy@mcn.net
Jack Blum (741), New Port Richey, FL.....jblum15677@aol.com
Winfield S. Bowers (741), Mount, Dora, FL.....winbow20@aol.com
Marlin L. (Bud) Brown, (742), Lake Placid, FL.....barbud@htn.net
Robert Caldwell (741), Prescott Valley, AZ.....Rc7306@aol.com
Howard Cooper, Staton Island, NY.....howgladcoop@worldnet.att.net
Robert (Bob) Collette, St. Petersburg, FL.....dotybob1@juno.com
James A. Cowden (742), Tascaloosa, AL.....jamescowden@comcast.net
James P. Daly (740), Aberdeen, NJ.....panadaly@aol.com
Jack Dekker (743), Grand Rapids, MI.....jdek457@aol.com
Theodore Deppe (741), Bloomington, IN.....tdeppe@indiana.edu
Curtis Diles (740), Dayton, OH.....budynez@aol.com
Paul H. Ditchett, (742), Safety Harbor, FL.....paul546@juno.com
Bob Emick (741), Battle Creek, MI.....femick@aol.com
James A. Fedewa (743), Dunnellon, FL.....jcfedewa@cs.com
William B. Gemmill (740), Spring Hill, FL.....vgemmill@tampabay.rr.com
William C. Graves (742), Jacksonville, FL.....wgraves210@aol.com
Lou Hansen (743), Spencer, IA.....ihhew@aol.com
Eugene M. Hurley, (742), Calvert City KY.....ghurley@apex.net
Thomas L. Kablack (742), Crown Pointe, IN.....techmart@mail.icongrp.com
Milton Kaplan (743), Scottsdale, AZ.....mkaplan@bestweb.net
Erling Kindem (742), Farmington, MN.....erlingk@aol.com
Jack Lancaster (742), Clovis, NM.....mandj@3lefties.com
John L. Larma (740), Omaha, NE.....jlarma@uswest.net
George L. Liddle (742), Sun City, CA.....olgeorge@ez2.net
Dave Matheson (742) Harrison, AR.....ihatebugs@cox-internet.com
C.E. McMullen (741) Tomball, TX.....Fmcmullenjr@aol.com
Vic Murray (743), Longwood, FL.....vmurray@earthlink.net

(see E-Mail Address Roster next page)

(E-Mail Address Roster continued)

Robert E. Newberg (743), West Des Moines, IA.....newy7aces@home.com
Charles Oltarzewski (740), Gallatin, TN.....murphB24@aol.com
Peter Payant (743), Phoenix, AZ.....pbpayant@home.com
Roland J Pepin (741), Johnstom, RI.....pep4400@aol.com
Jack Phelps (740), Dallas, TX.....B7606@ix.netcom.com
Wesley Powell (740), Seabrook TX.....wesjulia@gateway.net
Bob Probst (741), West Columbia, SC.....rtprobst@aol.com
Sid Schoengold (740), Monroe Township, NJ.....harsid1@juno.com
Gus R. Seefluth (742), Lebanon, OH.....gus@go-concepts.com
Walt Shostack (741), Dayton, OH.....shirlystack@compuserve.com
Charles E. Stark, (740), Pittsburg, PA.....carchar@aol.com
(Dr.) Stanley Vogelfang (741) Houston, TX.....stanvog@aol.com
Craig Ward (740, Assoc), Euless, TX.....aphp@comcast.net

From your Editor

Just a brief note to introduce myself. I'm Craig Ward, proud son of a brave member of the 455th Bomb Group, Lt. J. T. Ward.

My father was a CoPilot with the 455th BG in 1944. He ferried a B-24 to North Africa in December, 1943 (via Brazil), flew dozens of combat missions with you wonderful fellows from the base at San Giovanni, and returned to the United States in September, 1944. My late father was my hero, and the more I learn about the combat legacy of the veterans of the 455th BG, the more heroic your deeds become. I'm honored to be the new Editor of the *Cerignola Connection*.

Mr. Tom Ramey was a tireless and enthusiastic editor of the *Cerignola Connection* for 15 years. His immense legacy with the publication will be very challenging to replicate.

(continued at right)

I know I speak for all the readers of the *Cerignola Connection* and the members of the 455th Bomb Group Association when I give a hearty cheer and salute to the memory of Tom Ramey for a job well done as *Cerignola Connection* Editor for these many years!

I was not privileged to get to know any of the members of the 455th Bomb Group Association until fairly recently. I joined the 455th BG Association a few years ago as an associate member. My wife Marsha and I attended the reunions in San Diego and St. Louis. We look forward with great anticipation to the October reunion in Orlando.

Your feedback, stories, photographs, and your suggestions are encouraged and welcomed. I look forward to the honor of being the Editor of your newsletter, the *Cerignola Connection*!

Craig N. Ward, Editor, Cerignola Connection

CAN YOU HELP?

Frequently we get letters asking about someone who was in the 455th Bomb Group during WWII. If they are a member of our Association we have their address and we can forward the mail to them. However, sometimes the letter concerns someone who is not a member of our Association.

This is where maybe you can help. We are starting a new column in the Cerignola Connection which will be labeled "**Can You Help?**" See columns to follow. In this new column, a copy of these letters will appear. If you are able to provide any information that is requested, or if you know where the concerned member lives, please write the letter writer so he may contact that person.

Your help will sure help us, and certainly help the letter writer.

Thanks ! ... The Editor

CAN YOU HELP?

In the last edition's "Roll Call" was the name of "Everett R. Jenkins". Does anyone know Jenkins' home address and phone number? Please call or write me, as I'm trying to locate him. Thanks for your help!

Ed Spencer
47 Glenmoer Drive
East Haven, CT. 06512
203-467-7514

1944 World Events

D-Day Invasion of Normandy, June 6, 1944
First V-1 Rocket Bomb hits London
McArthur returns to the Phillipines
Allied Forces march into Rome, Italy
USAF announces production of 1st jet fighter

CAN YOU HELP?

Dear 455th BG Association,

I am Firmino Granziera and I live in Grado, a little country of North Italy (40 NM east Venice; 20 NM south Udine) on the coast of Adriatic Sea. I am fan of aeronautics. I write to you in the hope of reconstructing a history of B24 and it's crew ditching, may-be, in the Easter period 1944 or 1945, about 4 NM off shore of Grado.. The only sure date in my possession is a dog-tag with the name **Harris Huey** number **US 53324868** that we found in a wreck. The number 33 on the dog-tag could be another number as it is difficult to read clearly. It would be wonderful for me to know the names of the crew and their histories. Thank you. I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Firmino Granziera

**Via e. Dandolo 5, 4073 Grado
(Gorizia), Italy**

CAN YOU HELP?

Dear 455th BG Association,

I just learned of your newsletter—the Cerignola Connection. My brother, Lt. Arnold D. Luxenberg, flew out of Cerignola in 1944. In fact, he was on Mission 83, July 22, 1944, and was one of the crew members who perished as a result of the mid-air collision on the flight home.

I'm in the process of building a history of my family, and I'm trying to learn more about my brother. We were fairly close despite the fact that he was four years older than me, and had his own circle of friends.

(see "CAN YOU HELP?" next page)

CAN YOU HELP?

(CAN YOU HELP? continued ...)

Also, because of the depression, he left home early to take a government job out of town to help support the family. As a result we had too little face-to-face contact from the time he was 18 and I only 14. Add to that the fact that once he went into service, he never came home on a furlough—he went from one school to another without having a break.

I'm hoping to find some of his colleagues who knew him and could give me some details of his life—especially the crash that took his life. He graduated in the Class of 44-4 on March 18, 1944, from Selman Field in Monroe, La. After graduation he was shipped out west to a base at Pueblo Colorado, and from there to Topeka, Kansas for final training before going overseas. While in Colorado he married his childhood sweetheart, Ruth. He went overseas in June, 1944.

I would be deeply grateful if you could ask your readership if anyone knew my brother, and if they have any stories to tell about him. I realize I should have started this search years and years ago, but now I'm trying to make up for lost time. Any information I can get at this late date will be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,

Leon Luxenberg

11117 NW 65th Court

Parkland, FL 33076

(954)575-3210

LeeLux@att.net

Dear 455th BG Association,

My brother, Michael Mason, has been in touch with you previously. We are still looking for information on my father's bomber crewmates. My father, Staff Sergeant Bob Mason of Toledo, was assigned as the tailgunner on a B-24 Liberator. He was assigned to the 455th Bomb Group-Heavy, 742nd Squadron, stationed in San Giovanni, Italy. His unit arrived in Italy in February, 1944.

We are also looking for a picture of his plane. I believe it was an -H or -J model. The plane was named "Seldom Miss", and the nose art consisted of a female archer holding a bow at full draw. We saw photos of the plane when we were children, but my dad apparently destroyed them before he died in 1997. I believe this was the plane they were in when shot down after bombing a target in Poland, on December 26, 1944. I think that the aircraft loss report for this is MACR #10748.

Would you be able to post this information in your newsletter? I have posted it over the Internet on the Army Air Forces website. We would very much like to contact anyone who knew our father, especially surviving members of his crew. They also may be able to provide us with a picture of the plane.

Feel free to call me collect at home, telephone: (419)472-9080.

Sincerely,

Mark L. Mason

5514 Ginger Tree Lane

Toledo, Ohio 43623-1066

One Hundred Missions

The 455th Bomb Group had a “stand-down” one day in August, 1944, to celebrate the completion of its 100th mission. The area below the 743rd Squadron headquarters in the flat area along the creek was decorated to create a festive atmosphere.

A stage was constructed on which two Italian men performed feats of strength. Another pierced his bicep with a long needle. The “band” leader played the drums while his wife performed an exotic dance.

A race was scheduled between a mule and some donkeys—all ridden by group personnel—some of whom were dumped on the ground. A betting booth was set up; it did a lot of business. The men crowded around to place their bets.

The riders were not skilled and the animals were not trained. The result was that the race was a confused event. Some of the wagers made an effort to push their favorite animals to the forefront in order to wind their bet.

The next day it was back to the matter of fighting a war.

Submitted by Elmo Henske



100th Mission Celebration, August 1944



100th Mission Celebration, August 1944



The following poem was found on a bulletin board in Stalag Luft III Aug. 1944 by Don Durant (POW). Author Unknown.

Until now her name's hardly been mentioned
Still they've praised all the others before
And to extol here is not my intention
Though her merits are more than a score

She was needed and born for a reason
And she has every right to be proud
To me it's almost high treason
To slander her good name aloud!

It's a visible fact she's no beauty
And her lines are no work of art
But she's up there doing her duty
A patriot right to the heart.

She's a queen in the sky and she knows it
She ignores all ridiculous rib
She was named for a queen and she knows it
Perhaps that's why they christened her "Lib".

She goes where the fighting is toughest
Be it Berlin, Ploesti or Kiel
And she fights where the fighting is roughest
She's as hard as true tempered steel.

When the haul is too long for others
Or a load too heavy to pack
She's out there ahead of her brothers
Braving both fighters and flak.

On a run she's as smooth and as steady
As the pillars of old Hercules
If it's bombing you want then she's ready
Just a few of her merits are these.

I could list two or three dozen
Of her virtues that I've known and seen
As she fights along side her first cousin
The commendable B-17.

It is said that queens live and die proudly
For freedom, for country and more
But none fight for these things more proudly
Than our "Liberator", the B-24.

Addendum to previous article regarding belated award of Distinguished Flying Cross to Emmett Ledbetter: (submitted by Brenda Rayman, daughter of Emmett Ledbetter):

Tennessee State Senate Resolution 94

WHEREAS, Emmett Ledbetter served his country in time of war with extraordinary courage and great gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Emmett Ledbetter of Jackson for his valor, gallantry, and outstanding service as a flight engineer and top turret gunner in the Air Force during combat in World War II.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we congratulate him upon his belated and much deserved receipt of the Distinguished Flying Cross and offer our profound thanks for his sacrifice and courage and that of his crewmates in defense of our liberty and way of life.

*Presented by Tenn. State Senator Don McLeary,
June 10, 2003*

WWII Veterans' Web Registry

At a time when few adults know the staggering number of Americans who served in World War II, the names of U.S. veterans and those who supported the war effort can now be added to a national registry. The web-based list is open to U.S. veterans and any American who contributed to the war effort on the home front, whether in factories, shipyards, farms or neighborhoods. Anyone may submit names, and registration is free.

"The registry is important because Americans have lost sight of the role our nation played in history's most significant and devastating war," said Mike Conley, spokesman for the American Battle Monuments Commission that created the database.

In a poll of 1,002 U.S. adults, 22 percent believed that only 100,000 served in uniform during World War II and another 22 percent didn't know. About 34 percent guessed 1 million served and 14 percent thought 8 million served, in a survey conducted in May by Internal Communications Research. Only 8 percent correctly stated that 16 million served.

"Unlike today, virtually everyone in the United States personally knew someone in the military during World War II," said John S. Reed, University of Utah historian. "And if your family had a male in his 20s at the beginning of the war, and 18 years old by the end, your sons were probably in uniform."

The registry is accessible on the National World War II Memorial Web site, www.WWII Memorial.com, or by calling the commission toll-free at 1-800-639-4WW2.

Currently, the registry contains more than 1 million records, including National Archives and Records Administration lists of those killed during the war,

names of those buried in 24 overseas cemeteries maintained by the commission or names from its Tablets of the Missing. Anyone may access information on the registry. A sample of those listed is Angus C. Mackay, U.S. Army, whose hometown was Provo. Mackay's service is listed as "Killed in the Battle of the Bulge." His name was submitted by his cousin, William Green.

The national registry has been launched nearly a year before the dedication of the first national monument to World War II veterans on the National Mall in Washington. When the monument is dedicated on May 29, 2004, it is estimated that only 3.8 million of the 16 million veterans who served in World War II will be living. "We're making the registry available now, prior to the dedication, to encourage more enrollments," said Conley. "We've only scratched the surface of the database potential."

The commission, established by Congress in 1924 to maintain overseas cemeteries of U.S. war dead, is building the World War II memorial.

Construction, at the end of the Reflecting Pool opposite the Lincoln Memorial, began in September 2001. The memorial will comprise a plaza, a pool bordered by granite pillars and 24 bronze panels of scenes from America during the war.

Unlike the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the World War II memorial will not bear veterans' names. About 406,000 Americans died in World War II, more than six times the number of veterans whose names appear on the Vietnam memorial.

Tricare Handbook Available for Beneficiaries, Providers...

The 2002 TRICARE Handbook is now available for distribution to beneficiaries and providers worldwide.

The new handbook highlights all three TRICARE options – Prime, Standard and Extra – and the many health care programs and benefits added since the 1997 edition.

New topics and benefits covered include TRICARE For Life, TRICARE Prime Remote for Active Duty Family Members, TRICARE Plus, Travel Reimbursement, Chiropractic Care TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program, TRICARE Dental Program, Debt Collection Assistance Officer Program, Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator Program and more.

TRICARE officials said the handbook includes helpful telephone numbers and addresses on the back. It includes improved charts and graphs for cost comparisons.

The new handbook is being shipped to TRICARE serviced centers and military treatment facilities in every TRICARE region and is available to sponsors and their family members upon request. An electronic version of the handbook is available at: www.tricare.osd.mil/Tricarehandbook/

A note from Arthur Tilley, Sr. ...

Dear Editor,

I read "Tail Lookout" by Henry Everhart in the spring 2002 letter and realized we were one of the 9 planes he saw go down on June 26, 1944, during the bombing mission of the oil refinery at Moosbierbaum, Austria. I had not seen any other mention of what happened, and had promised myself to put something together and send it in. Finally I have and it is attached. It includes my experiences going through the German POW system.

Thanks,

Arthur Tilley, Sr.
85 Nason Avenue
Bangor, Maine 04401
(207)945-5186, (207)989-2162

*Editor's note: Mr. Tilley forwarded a fascinating account of his experience on that mission and the months that followed. While we do not have the space available in this edition of the **Cerignola Connection** to include the account, future editions of this newsletter will include excerpts from his compelling story. Thanks for documenting your experience, Arthur!*

Getting Older, Getting Nicer

People seem to become nicer as they age. That's what an internet survey of more than 132,000 adults, ages 21-60, discovered. "Agreeableness", described as being warm, generous, and helpful, showed the biggest improvement after age 30 in men and women. Chronic or frequent worrying declined sharply with age in women, but held steady in men.

"People really do get better with age and experience", psychologist Sanjay Srivastava of Stanford University told AARP.

Courtesy of AARP

WWII Cartoonist

BILL MAULDIN Dies At 81

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif.

Bill Mauldin, the Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist who portrayed World War II reality laced with humor, died earlier this year. He was 81.

Mauldin, one of the 20th century's pre-eminent editorial cartoonists, died of complications from Alzheimer's disease, including pneumonia, at a Newport Beach nursing home, said Andy Mauldin, 54, one of the cartoonist's seven sons.

"It's really good that he's not suffering anymore," he said. "He had a terrible struggle."

His characters Willie and Joe, a laconic pair of unshaven, mud-encrusted dogfaces, clogged their way through Italy and other parts of battle-scarred Europe, surviving the enemy and the elements while caustically and sarcastically harpooning the unctuous and pompous.

They were the vessels that Mauldin, a young Army rifleman, filled with wry understatement to portray the tedium and treachery of war, entertaining and endearing himself to millions of fellow soldiers in the war and to Americans at home.

In 1945, at age 23, his series "Up Front With Mauldin" won him the first of his two Pulitzer Prizes for editorial cartooning.

WHOOPS!

In a previous issue of *The Cerignola Connection*, page 7, there was a concentration camp story titled "So Long Jerry", re the 954 BG Mission 203 flown by the 461st B Squad on 26 March, 1945. The author was inadvertently omitted. Credit should be given to Paul Hartal from the 961st. Paul is in the process of writing a book on the 461st, during this time of the war, Cerignola, Italy.

ATTENTION: Former 741 Personnel

Horace Lanford is attempting to raise sufficient funds to invite 741 widows to the reunion dinners. A special plea goes out to the "Apron Wearers" as well as to all generous squadron members. The Apron Wearers and their helpers do much to enliven our reunion, in my opinion.

I hope we can obtain permission from the hotel to serve our own drinks, but it is not a sure bet! Anyway, reach for your checkbook and send me the results. With Win and Dottie Bowers running the show, I can assure you the bookkeeping will be a vast improvement over our last reunion. As you remember, I was the bookkeeper! (I won't mention the two checks I misplaced but finally returned.) *Sincerely,*

Horace

455th Bomb Group Association, Inc.
PO Box 149
Castroville, TX. 78009
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