



# Arizona Chapter The Eighth Air Force Historical Society

Reply to: 10740 Canterbury Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
602-977-5617

March 25, 1985

William Collins  
2973 Heatherbrae Dr.  
Youngstown, OH 44514

Dear William

We are attempting to clear up some past due members of the 8th AFHS and are listing below in the hope that you may have an up-to-date address on him. Please let us know on the Post-Paid Card enclosed.

He H7 1306H #05092  
Howard J. Snyder  
115 Red Rock Cove Dr.  
Sedona, AZ 86336

Our efforts to contact at the above address are nil.

Thanx,

John W. Bruning, Pres.

HOWARD J. SNYDER

DEAR RUSS:

4/15/03

ENCLOSED ARE THE NAMES OF MY CREW.

<sup>L TO R</sup>  
FIRST ROW HOWARD SNYDER, CAPT: GEORGE

EIKE 2ND LT COPILOT: ROBERT BENNIGER, 2ND LT,

NAVIGATOR: RICHARD DANIELS, 2ND LT, BOMB -

ARDIER: <sup>2ND ROW L TO R</sup>  
SGT ROY HOLBERT, CREW CHIEF:

SGT LOUIS COLWART, BALL TURRET: ROSS

KAHLER, RADIO OPERATOR: SGT JOHN

PINDROCK RIGHT WAIST GUNNER: SGT JOSEPH

MUSIAL LEFT WAIST GUNNER: SGT W.M.

SLENKER, TAIL GUNNER.

I ENJOY TALKING TO YOU AND  
WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.

KOBY

Howard

## CREW

EVADDEE	CAPT	HOWARD J SNYDER	PILOT	0742461
KILLED BY SS	2ND LT	GEORGE W. EIKE	COPILOT	0748164
KILLED BY SS	2ND LT	ROBERT J. BENNINGER	NAVIGATOR	0685369
POW-DEAD	2ND LT	RICHARD L. DANIELS	BOMBARDIER	0679378
POW	TECH SGT	ROY K HOLBERT	CREW CHIEF	34036012
POW	STAFF SGT	JOSEPH J NIWSIAL	ASST CREW CHIEF	13025549
KILLED IN PLANE	" "	RUSS L. KAHLER	RADIO OPERATOR	33324107
EVADDEE	" "	WMM. O. SHENKER	TAIL GUNNER	16101156
KILLED IN PLANE	" "	LOUIS J COLWART	GUNNER	18151629
KILLED BY SS	" "	JOHN PINDROCH	GUNNER	15329492

## HELPERS

PAUL TILQUIN DEAD  
 CHARLES SCHUYTENEER DEAD  
 MADAME J. R. MARTIN DEAD  
 GEORGES PIRAN DEAD  
 EIMEE & VICTOR KUYLS DEAD  
 MAURICE BAILLEUX DEAD  
 HENRI FRANKIN ADDRESS UNKNOWN  
 NELLY TILQUIN (WIFE OF PAUL) 4 LA PLACE, 6413 DAILLY BELGIUM  
 GISHAINE BAILLEUX (WIFE OF MAURICE) L'ARET, RUE DE L'OBSERVATOIRE  
 111, 6200 GOSSELIES, BELGIUM  
 MADAME ANDRÉ (GINETTE) GADENNE 108-6 AVENUE DE L'ANLN  
 B 1180 BRUXELLES  
 RAYMOND DURVIN LE CHEZAL, ACHERES  
 18250 HENRICHEMONT, FRANCE

Name:

Cadet class:

43 D

Place of graduation:

DOUGLITS, 172

Number of combat missions:

8

Wife's first name:

RUTH

Other 306th men whom I know graduated with me:

NONE

THAT I KNOW

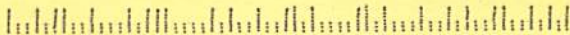
NEW ZIP 86351

HOWARD J SNYDER  
115 RED ROCK COVE DR  
SEDONA, AZ 86335

51



**Russell A. Strong, Secretary  
306th Bomb Group Association  
5323 Cheval Place  
Charlotte, NC 28205**



HOWARD J. SNYDER

11-14-91

DEAR RUSS:

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT FIND THE ENCLOSED ARTICLE INTERESTING. MIWSINTL WAS A WAIST GUNNER IN MY CREW; NOT A PILOT. THE MAJORITY OF MISSIONS (70) IN THE ARTICLE WERE RECONNAISSANCE IN THE PACIFIC BEFORE JOINING MY CREW IN THE STATES. WE WERE IN THE 369TH.

MY CREW IS IN YOUR BOOK. WE HAD A MONUMENT DEDICATED IN OUR HONOR SEPT 2ND 1989 AT MACQUENAISE, BELGIUM. WHICH WE ATTENDED. INCIDENTLY I WAS THE PILOT

JOES DAUGHTER KELLY IS MARRIED TO A MAJOR (M.D.) IN THE AIR FORCE AND STATIONED IN SAN ANTONIO. SHE IS THE ONE WHO HAD TO TAKE CHARGE OF THIS TRAGEDY.

BEST REGARDS, Howard

6-17-89

RUSSEL A. STRONG  
SECRETARY-EDITOR  
306<sup>TH</sup> ECHOES  
5323 CHEVAL PLACE  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28205

DEAR RUSSEL:

MANY YEARS AGO YOUR PHONE CALL WOKE ME UP ABOUT THREE AM OUT OF A SOUND SLEEP. YOUR WANTED INFORMATION CONCERNING MY EXPERIENCES IN THE 306<sup>TH</sup>. I MUST CONFESS, THAT WAS NOT A CALL I WAS TOO HAPPY ABOUT, BUT I DID GIVE YOU A LITTLE INFO & YOU PRINTED IT IN YOUR "FIRST OVER GERMANY" PAGES 201-2 & 3. AT A MORE CONVENIENT TIME I COULD HAVE GIVEN YOU ENOUGH TO FILL A WHOLE BOOK.

THE BELGO-AMÉRICAIN FOUNDACTION IS DEDICATING A MONUMENT IN MACQUENOISE, BELGIUM (WHERE I WAS SHOT DOWN) IN HONOR OF MY CREW ON AUGUST 27<sup>TH</sup>. IT WILL BE A TEN DAY AFFAIR.

DR PANK DELAHAYE THE ORGANIZER OF THIS FOUNDATION HAS PURCHASED AN OLD FARM HOUSE FOR USE AS A MUSEUM. HE WOULD LIKE MEMORABILIA TO DISPLAY. PHOTOS OF B17 IN FLIGHT, IN FORMATION, DURING COMBAT, ON THE GROUND U2S, JUST ABOUT ANYTHING. CAN YOU HELP!

~~I~~ ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE DEDICATION OF A MONUMENT IN MONTIGNIES, BELGIUM

LAST MAY 1988.

I HAVE ENCLOSED LETTERS, CHIPPINGS ETC.  
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, ALSO A SHORT ACCOUNT  
OF MY EXPERIENCES WHEN SHOT DOWN.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION  
LET ME KNOW. ALSO LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU  
CAN FURNISH FOR PARKS' MUSEUM.

BEST REGARDS

Howard Snyder

HOWARD J SNYDER  
115 RED ROCK COVE DR  
SEDONA, AZ 86336

PHONE (602) 284-2332

## UN MEMORIAL A MACQUENOISE ?

8 février 1944, 12 H 30, une forteresse B17G s'écrase à la Distillerie à Macquenoise. 2 corps gisent sur le sol, ce sont Ross Kalher (Radio - 28 ans) et Louis Colwart (mitrailleur inférieur - 19 ans). Les 8 autres occupants sont sauvés grâce à leur parachute, mais Eike (copilote - 23 ans), Benninger (navigateur - 21 ans) et Pendroch (mitrailleur de droite - 19 ans) cachés dans le maquis de Rièzes puis de St-Remy seront assassinés le 22 avril 1944 par des SS...

5 survivants rentrent aux Etats-Unis. Les 14 et 15 mai 1988, le STI a eu l'honneur de recevoir le pilote Snyder et le mitrailleur Musial lors de l'inauguration du monument de Nonceau-Imbrechies.

Ils ont parcouru les Km tragiques vécus à Macquenoise le 8 février 1944, ils ont découvert l'endroit où leurs 2 compagnons sont tombés, morts; ils sont venus nous remercier de leur avoir sauvé la vie, ils veulent revenir fin 89 inaugurer un petit monument à leurs mémoires, avec 2 autres survivants encore en vie. Monsieur Van Haverbeke a offert le terrain et Monsieur Plouvier a offert le thème du monument, l'hélice du Fowke Wulff 190 qui a abattu le B17 avant d'être lui-même abattu à Beauwelz.

Une première réunion s'est tenue à Macquenoise, pour l'érection de ce monument : 28 membres sont déjà inscrits. Faites comme eux, prenez une carte de membre fondateur du Mémorial de Macquenoise, en versant votre quote part à la Fondation Belgo-Américaine 12 Route de Beauwelz 6590 Momignies.

Tél : 060/51.12.52 - 51.19.04

CCB : 068-2017383-04

Et tous ensemble, en septembre 1989, nous inaugurerons ce Mémorial avec ces 4 aviateurs et leurs familles.





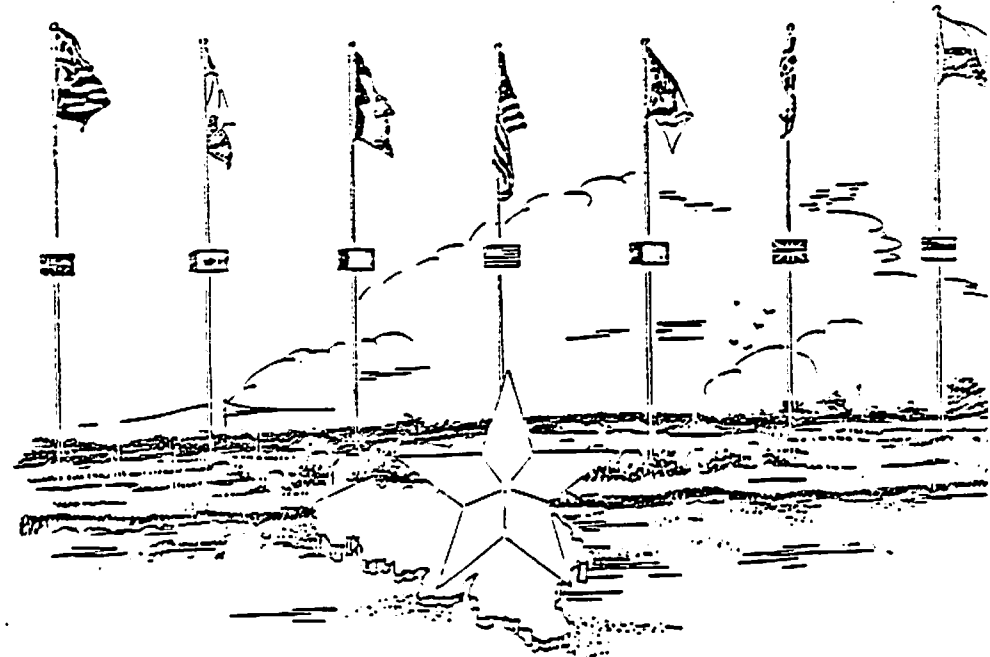
*Connaissez-vous Monceau-Imbrechies, son Musée  
40-44, son Mémorial ?*

*Plus de 50 photos du 2 septembre 1944, des  
souvenirs personnels des 1ers Héros dont le  
sang glorieux a rougi notre sol.*

*Revivez le ravitaillement avec ses timbres,  
la chute d'une forteresse à Macquenoise,  
le débarquement de Dieppe, affiches de propagande  
allemande...*

*Ouvert les dimanches et jours fériés du 1er mai  
au 15 septembre de 10 H à 12 H et de 14 H à  
18 H ou sur appel téléphonique*

*060/51.12.52 ou 060/51.19.04*



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CONCERT DU 17 FEVRIER 1989, SALLE DU KURSAAL

MOMIGNIES

Offert par la musique de la Force Aérienne Américaine en Europe sous la direction du Major JESSOP.

Les Hymnes

Poète et paysan  
L'armée du Nil  
Rhapsodie pour clarinette solo  
(soliste : P. Fritz)  
Les Libertins de Mallow de la  
suite Irlandaise  
Polka Italienne  
Danses Arméniennes 1ère Partie:  
L'Abricotier; Le Chant de la  
Perdrix; Hola, mon Nazan  
Alagyaz; Va, Va

Franz Von Suppè  
Kenneth Alford  
  
Ann Mc Ginty  
  
Leroy Anderson  
Serge Rachmaninoff

Alfred Reed

ENTRACTE 20 MINUTES

West Side Story  
  
Les marches symphoniques  
Hommage à Sammy  
Chanteur : Ron Boswell  
Original Dixieland Concerto  
Chants dans une girouette  
Chant : SGT P. Fanara  
SGT RON Boswell  
Hommage à Glenn Miller

L. Bernstein : Arr.  
Duthoit  
John Williams  
  
Arr. Lewis  
John Warrington  
  
Michael Davis  
Arr. Pomeroy

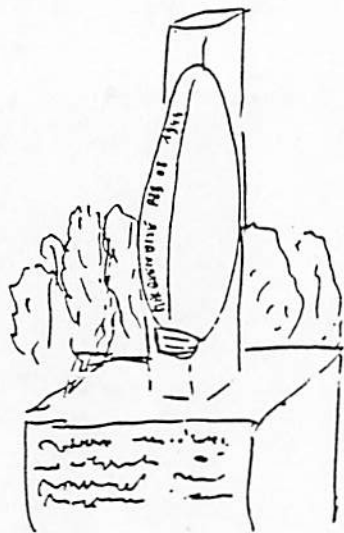
LES SOLISTES

Patricia FRITZ, née à Bloomington, Indiana  
Etudes : à l'université d'Indiana  
à Rome  
à Ithaca College pour une maîtrise en clarinette

Master SGT Ron BOSWELL : chant  
Natif de San Antonio, Texas  
Chante avec plusieurs vedettes américaines  
Crystal Gayle, Lou Rawles, Dizzy Gillespie,...

Technical SGT Patricia FANARA : chant  
Vient spécialement de l'Air Force Band de Washington  
Née à Long Island, New York  
Maîtrise en musique de l'Université catholique de New York.  
Elle a chanté avec la troupe de l'opéra de Washington

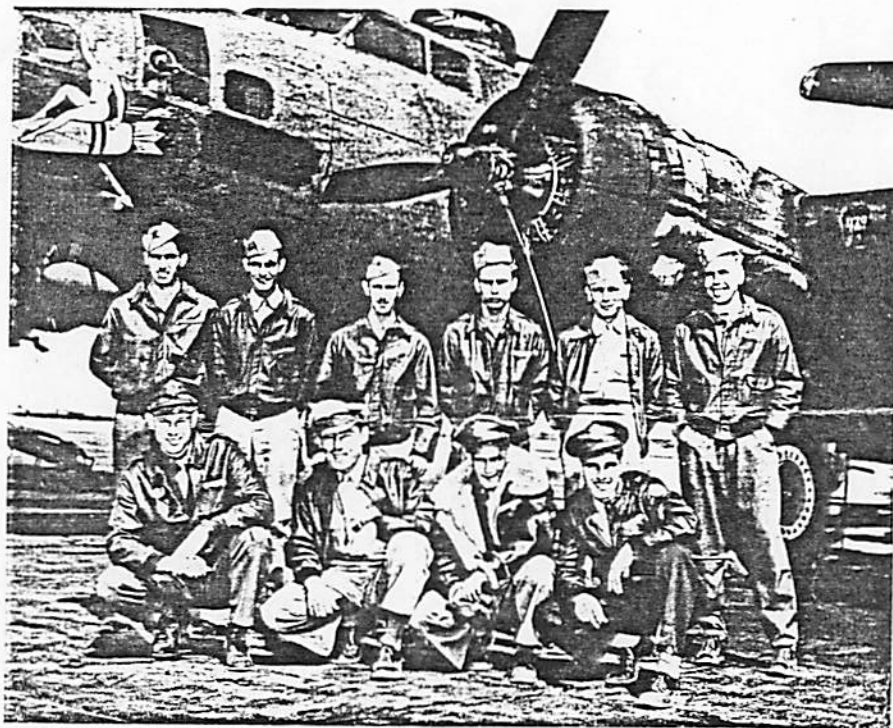
*Ici sont tombés le 8 février 1944  
deux Héros morts pour notre Liberté*



**Macquenoise**

*Le 27 août 1989, en présence de leurs  
compagnons d'Armes  
leur sacrifice sera immortalisé*

*Voici 45 ans, le 8 février 1944 à 12H,  
le "Suzan Ruth" était en perdition  
au-dessus de Macquenoise*



*A bord, deux membres de l'équipage  
sont morts : Colwart 19 ans, Kahler 28 ans*

*Le 27 août 1989, le Capitaine Snyder  
Pilote, Mrs Musial, Slenker, et Holberts  
sont invités à inaugurer le mémorial de  
Macquenoise en souvenir de leurs compagnons  
d'armes.*

# La vie régionale

## Sur le futur mémorial de Macquenoise, un vestige historique...

**C**ETTE pale d'hélice est appelée à prendre place sur le mémorial attendu pour le 2 septembre prochain à la Distillerie de Macquenoise, sur les lieux mêmes où tomba, en février 1944, un B-17 aiguillonné au-dessus de l'Allemagne.

Suggérées par la stature du Dr. Paul Delahaye, ses dimensions vous étonneront peut-être. Observez dans ce cas son profil elliptique, auquel on ne saurait guère associer le "design" des constructeurs d'outre-Atlantique.

C'est qu'elle n'appartient pas au géant abattu, mais bien au chasseur qui l'a expédié au sol avant de l'y rejoindre à quelque distance, victime à son tour de l'intensité de l'engagement.

C'était un Focke-Wulf FW.190, tenu pour l'un des plus dangereux intercepteurs de la Luftwaffe... mais aussi pour l'un des plus petits. Son pilote, semble-t-il, aurait survécu au crash et à Momignies, on a pris l'heureuse résolution d'encourager les recherches pour remonter sa piste et le retrouver s'il est encore en vie. Le Dr Delahaye souhaite en effet le convier à l'inauguration du mémorial : il y rencontrerait ainsi les quatre rescapés de la "Forteresse" américaine, qui ont déjà confirmé leur participation à cette cérémonie.

### Un obus bloque la soute à bombes

Nous aurons sans doute l'occasion d'apporter quelques développements au récit de leur odyssee,

dans ce raid du 8 février qui égrena plusieurs appareils sur le sol de nos régions.

La "Susan Ruth", un B-17G du modèle le plus récent, équipé de la tourelle nasale à télécommande électrique, appartenait au Squadron 369 du 306th Bombardment Group. Etagé dans une formation importante et sous la protection d'une nuée d'escorteurs, il avait doublé les côtes anglaises aux premières lueurs de l'aube et son pilote, le capitaine Howard Snyder, l'avait aligné sur un cap pour l'Allemagne. Objectif : Francfort.

A sa gauche, dans le poste de pilotage, se tenait le Lt George Eike ; et dans les flancs du mastodonte s'étaient encore hissés le navigateur Robert Benninger, le bombardier Richard Daniels, l'opérateur-radio Ross Kahler et les mitrailleurs : Roy Holbert (tourelle dorsale), Louis Colwart (recroquevillé dans le bouclier ventrale), Joseph Musial (sabord

droit), John Pindroch (sabord gauche) et William Slenker (poste de queue).

Leur autonomie ne permettait pas encore aux chasseurs d'accompagner le mouvement au-delà de la frontière du Reich et les bombardiers, imbriqués de manière à se couvrir mutuellement, poursuivirent seuls jusque la "bomb line", aux abords de laquelle les attendait une flak intense.

Un obus explosa juste sous le fuselage de la "Susan Ruth", heureusement délestée de sa cargaison mortelle ; ses éclats blessèrent au bras le Lt Daniels et bloquèrent l'ouverture de la soute à bombes, crevant en outre le réservoir d'aile gauche.

Sur le chemin du retour, Slenker sollicita les moteurs pour maintenir en altitude ce qu'il avait perdu en vitesse. Mais 2 Focke-Wulf 190 montés de Dusseldorf avaient remarqué l'avarie et entamèrent des lancers un harcèlement interminable, contenu tant bien que mal par le retour de l'escorte de protection.

Au-dessus de Couvin, une passe plus audacieuse amène un des "Focke" en position de tir idéale et plusieurs rafales traversent la carlin-



● En regard du Dr. Delahaye, dont la stature est assez imposante, la pale d'hélice ne manque pas de faire impression.

gue en duralumin, tuant Ross Kahler et le mitrailleur ventral. Commandes bloquées, la "Susan Ruth" se traîne jusque Macquenoise où se termine son agonie.

Ses huit survivants ont sauté en parachute et seront pris en charge.

Mais trois d'entre eux, qui avaient trouvé asile dans le maquis de Rièze, puis de Saint-Remy, disparaîtront hélas le 22 avril 1944, sous les balles de la Gestapo.

Nous reviendrons ultérieurement sur leur pénible destin.  
Philippe EYLENBOSCH



VENREDI 12 AOUT 1988

## MOMIGNIES

### Macquenoise élèvera un monument en souvenir des aviateurs U.S.A.F.



Le syndicat d'initiative de la Thiérache envisage d'ériger un monument du souvenir sur le site de La Distellerie à Macquenoise où un bombardier B17 du 369th squadron 306th bombardment group tomba pendant la guerre. Deux des aviateurs américains furent tués, mais le reste de l'équipage fut sauvé, soigné puis passa au maquis de la région.

Le Dr P. Delahaye, président du S.I. a organisé en la salle des fêtes de Macqu-

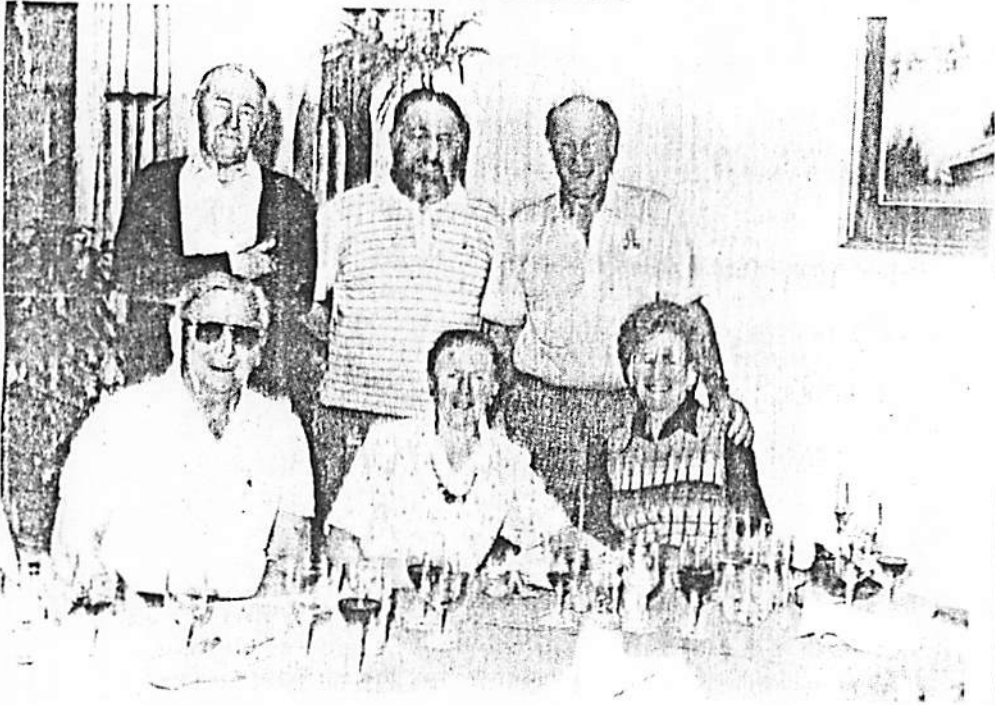
noise une séance d'information, afin de former un comité pour ce futur monument du souvenir qui sera érigé le 2 septembre 1989 à La Distellerie. Il a commenté la maquette de ce mémorial en signalant que, cette année, des rescapés sont venus visiter le site et assister aux fêtes de Monceau. L'an prochain, le reste de l'équipage fera le voyage pour l'inauguration.

Il expliqua la manière dont il comptait réunir les fonds, par exemple par un

concert en septembre et commenta ensuite une série de diapositives sur les faits en 1944, les festivités à Monceau, le site de Cendron et de la Distellerie.

En fin de séance, il répondit aux questions du public parmi lequel on reconnaissait MM Dubray, conseiller, Abrassart, commissaire voyer, Vandendoore, instituteur, etc. Le futur comité sera désigné lors d'une autre réunion du syndicat d'initiative et des bonnes volontés locales.

# LE PELERINAGE D'AVIATEURS AMERICAINS



Le groupe des aviateurs des USA en compagnie de M. J. Gondry.

Etonnante visite que celle effectuée par deux membres des forces de l'Air des USA, revenu dans la région 44 ans après un premier séjour dramatique.

C'est ainsi que M. Gondry et P. Delayhe du Syndicat d'Initiative de la Thiérache belge ont

reçu le capitaine Snyder, pilote du «B17» tombé à Macquenoise le 8 février 1944, recueilli par M. Rilkknk, Durvin, puis passé après des soins à Chimay au maquis de Trélon (F).

Il était accompagné de M. Musial Jos, mitrailleur côté gauche et des épouses. C'est M. Gondry qui a servi de guide

vu sa connaissance de l'anglais.

Les aviateurs US ont visité le site de Macquenoise où ils sont tombés, le site de Cendron, et le musée de la seconde guerre et le mémorial érigé par la fondation belgo-américaine à Monceau Imbréchies.

## LE MEMORIAL DE LA FONDATION BELGO-AMERICAINE INAUGURE

La fondation Belgo-Américaine et le STI de la Thiérache soucieuse du patrimoine historique a édifié un petit monument à la mémoire des 1<sup>er</sup> héros US tombés le 2.09.44 pour la libération du pays.

Ce mémorial a été inauguré samedi en présence d'une foule nombreuse, de membres des associations patriotiques, des militaires belges et du Shape.

### Les cérémonies

La grande manifestation débute dès 15 h par un service religieux avec la fanfare de Beauwelz, d'un cortège avec la clique de Trélon (F) d'un défilé de 45 engins d'époque dont un tank, un amphibie. Le Dr Delayhe prie le colonel Verhees, attaché de l'air à l'ambassade des USA de dévoiler le monument.

C'est un groupe imposant qui est massé autour du mémorial et le président Delayhe s'adresse aux héros du jour en français tandis que M. Gondry traduit les discours en anglais.

### Des héros à l'honneur

Diverses personnes seront citées à l'honneur et recevront la médaille du STI : M. Gaston Constant du maquis de Rièzes... une rafale lorsqu'il... ses amis... révolte...



ans à la 5<sup>e</sup> brigade, Solange Higny, femme de prisonnier qui abrite à la Macquenoise 2 maquisards français, Gilbert Fontesse arrêté par la Gestapo alors qu'il portait du ravitaillement au maquis M. heuschen pour sa conduite lors des événements du Zaire, Mlle Fosset, arrêtée en 1944 et incarcérée à Ravensbruck pour avoir hébergé 2 aviateurs US.

C'est ensuite 2 aviateurs des USA tombés à Macquenoise après un raid sur le reich en 1944, le capitaine Snyder et le sergent Jos Musial.

Le capitaine Snyder remet ensuite la médaille à MM Franklin et Durvin.

Il s'adresse ensuite au public...

d'être présent pour cette cérémonie d'hommage.

M. Gondry traduit son discours en français au fur et à mesure. C'est ensuite le Bourg mestre A. Lernoux qui s'adresse d'abord en anglais et ensuite en français pour remercier le STI et la fondation Belgo-Américaine pour cette cérémonie patriotique.

Un vin d'honneur met fin à cette inauguration, c'est par la suite un concert champêtre d'époque 1944, la retraite aux flambeaux et le bal.

Le dimanche vers 11 h concert apéritif par la fanfare de Beauwelz, un défilé des voitures d'époque, cérémonie et concert au Karsaal avec le...



Momignies, May 09 1989

Dear Mr. [Name]

In May 1988, upon the visit of Mrs Snyder and Musical we committed ourselves to erect in late Aug. 1989 a small monument dedicated to the memory of the fire heroes of your area who fell in Belgium in 1944. Since last spring, we have worked out this remembrance week.

So doing we have pleasure and great honor to invite you to our little community from Aug. 25th to about Sept 4th 1989.

Our schedule would be as follows:

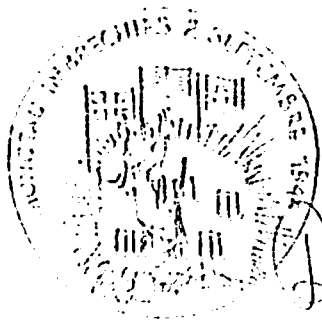
- Friday Aug 25: Arrival to Comignies.
- Saturday Aug 26 Musical fireworks at Comignies Inbrechie Ceremony
- Sunday Aug 27 formal inauguration at Traquenon in presence of the
- Monday " 28 SHAPE music - Rest.
- Tuesday " 29 Visit of the SHAPE near Cars
- Wednesday " 30 Visit of the site of the battle of the bridge in BASTOGNE
- Thursday " 31 To Brussel. US Embassy?
- Friday Sept 1 Visit of the US Air Force Base in Florennes.
- Saturday " 2 45th Anniversary of the liberation at Condron - Foy, Philippe
- Sunday " 3 Ceremony at CONDRON. Jazz concert by the US Air Force

Accommodation for all AMBASSADORS is scheduled at Muelle WOUX-HALL (the Jack Gonda) TRAPPE + Mikes! at the FOBERGE de Potaupré (POTNUPRE INN) near the abbey of the

So such is the calendar that we suggest we sincerely do hope to welcome you in Belgium and that these dates will be convenient to you. Will you please let us know, as soon as possible whether you agree with this or not, so that we can make the necessary reservations, get in touch with US Embassy, SHAPE etc. We trust that you all are enjoying good health and in the meantime

Your devoted Belgian friends

[Signature]



Montignies, May 9 - 1979

Dear Mr & Mrs Snyder,

We have received your mail with great pleasure. Please be sure that we understand the delay (I too) I am bothered with that, we always are so glad getting news from your side.

Yesterday I met a lady whose daughter got married to Mr Piral's son; she was to extend your regards to her son-in-law. We are starting the works on the monument and would like to inaugurate it on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 1979.

Christy, we would like keeping you from Aug 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Accomodation would be at the "Auberge de Polanpe" close to the Abbey. We would be able to visit Bastogne, Brussel and The SHAPE + Florenne. (US Air Force.)

Everything is setting up progressively and so you all will be present for the ceremony at Cerin, 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the 1<sup>st</sup> Liberators (1<sup>st</sup> US Army)

I will be glad to receive your cassette; it may be mini if it's convenient with you, or standard size; if more room is necessary. Standard size might be easier to use for copying purposes in view of translation; also sound quality is probably better.

On May 13 and 14 the usual ceremonies will take place in Mouscron including, big event on Saturday: The Works!

Sunday afternoon ceremony with US band opened Monday 15<sup>th</sup> concert by the Dixie BAND.

As you can see, we are quite busy. On Feb 17, we had the concert paid of the US Air Force from Kazakhstan. Another big success

...  
If waiting the pleasure of getting news from your  
side, with our fondest feelings to all.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, possibly reading "W. B.", with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

HOWARD J SNYDER  
115 RED ROCK COVE DR  
SEDONA, AZ 86336

7-28-89

DEAR RUSS:

THE JUNE ISSUE OF 306<sup>TH</sup> ECHOES  
JUST ARRIVED. I ALWAYS ENJOY THEM.  
MY BOMBARDIER RICHARD L. DANIELS  
IS MISSING FROM YOUR LIST. HE ARRIVED  
10-21-43 AND WAS SHOT DOWN WITH  
MIE 2-8-44. HE WAS A POW. HE  
DIED IN 1983 OF A HEART ATTACK.

MY TAIL GUNNER S/SGT WILLIAM O.  
SLENKER WAS AN EVADEE. HE WAS  
ALSO WITH MIE ON 2-8-44. HE IS  
LIVING IN ST LOUIS AND WILL GO TO  
BELGIUM NEXT MONTH ALSO. HE IS  
MISSING FROM YOUR EVADEE LIST IN  
THE APRIL 88 ISSUE.

ROBERT J BENNINGER 2ND LT WAS  
MY NAVIGATOR 2-8-44. HE WAS  
MURDERED BY THE SS TROOPS ALONG

WITH GEORGE W. EIKE AND LT JIMY COOP  
AND S/SGT JOHN JINDROCK MY WAIST  
GUNNER ON APRIL 22, 1944.  
YOU DIDN'T HAVE THE DEPARTURE DAE  
FOR BENNINGER IN THE OCT 88 ISSUE

INCIDENTLY MY MIDDLE INITIAL IS  
J NOT F AS IN THE EVADEE LIST  
IN YOUR APRIL 88 ISSUE.

I HAVE ENCLOSED A COPY OF A  
LETTER WRITTEN BY DERWOOD W.  
EIKE, GEORGE'S FATHER, TO ME  
EXPLAINING HIS SON'S DEATH. DERWOOD  
WAS A V.P. OF EASTMAN KODAK  
AND PULL SOME STRINGS TO GET  
THE HELP HE NEEDED FROM A  
MY SENATOR TO OBTAIN THE  
INFORMATION

Best Regards  
Howard

9-16-89

Dear Russ:

JUST GOT BACK THE 14TH. YOUR AUG 20TH  
CARD WAS WAITING. HOPE THE ENCLOSED ISN'T TOO  
LATE.

BACK ROW L TO R, HOLBERT, COLWART,  
KAKLER, PENDROCH, MUSIAL, SLENKER! FRONT  
ROW L-R SNYDER, EIKE, BENNINGER & DANIELS.

COULD YOU MAKE A NEW 8 X 10 PAINT OF  
THE CREW? IT IS THE ONLY ONE I HAVE  
LEFT.

THE HOSPITALITY, FRIENDLINESS & GRATITUDE  
OF THE BELGIANS & FRENCH WAS OVER-  
WHELMING. I HAVE A VOICE TAPE I MADE  
OF THE DAILY ACTIVITIES & WILL SEND YOU.

BEST REGARDS

Howard

HOWARD J SNYDER  
115 RED ROCK COVE DR  
SEDONA, AZ 86336

P.S. PLEASE RETURN THE PHOTOS WHEN  
YOU ARE FINISHED.

7-13-89

Dear Russ:

The 8X10 prints are great!  
Thank you very much. They are  
in the mail and I am sure  
will be greatly appreciated.

I have been thinking of  
recording what I can now  
remember of my MIA  
experience on tape. So far  
haven't had the self-discipline  
to get started.

I don't have any pictures  
of the war but many of  
the May 88 dedication &  
will have many of the  
Aug 89 dedication

The map is a good idea

1-13-27

will get on road in Belgium.

May be your July 2nd  
letter will get me going

Best regards,

Howard

2 July 1989

Dear Howard:

Here are some good 8x10 prints for the Belgian friends of the 306th. I hope that they like the variety.

Also, I have enjoyed reading your piece, and will use it in the September issue of Echoes.

How about following it up with a more detailed accounting of your experiences with the underground and as an infantryman?

I would use it in the January issue, if you are willing and can get it together by about 1 December. Are any pictures of you available?

It might be interesting to use a map at that time, if you could xerox a map of that part of the world and then could indicate where it was that you served, from touchdown to pickup by the Americans.

All the best,

Howard Snyder

9/12/80

213) 446-8934

in hole, couldn't close doors  
fading. Pushed out 2x3, controls  
slat out. Oxygen tank in cockpit  
exploded. Knocked Snyder out.

Cockpit in flames, copilot was  
trying to get base, + jumped.

Put slip on auto pilot.

Went to nose, yelled at b + v trying.  
Tried to get fire out.

Jumped out nose hatch. at 29,000.  
Delayed jump. When saw ground, pulled  
cord at 1500'.

landed in tree. hanging 20' off ground  
between 2 trees. Flames came around,  
Straginal in leg, some burns.

W/pipe pulled over to tree.

Young man helped to hide him. Fones  
got rid of chutes.

Some snow on ground. wet. Came back at  
nite. Stayed w/ fames for a couple of days.

Contacted to London to determine if he  
was for real.

Wandered around for 8 mos. Traveled w/  
underground. W/active Nazis unit in France.  
Sounded for 6 wks in bombing of train,  
etc. Pistol, sub machine gun.

3rd Armored Div came to Trelon, France,  
& he reported

Back in London in October.

~~From~~ stood out because of height.

4 November 1975

Mr. Howard Snyders  
825 Arcadia Avenue  
Arcadia, Calif. 91006

Dear Howard:

Joe Musial gave me your address after telling me of some of his harrowing experiences in combat.

As the attached sheet tells you, I am working on a history of the 306th, and I would like to hear something of your story, particularly that last mission and any others that stand out in your memory.

The form letter mentions the upcoming 8th Air Force reunion. It was held in mid-September in Miami, and the 306th had the largest representation there. It was a fantastic two days and I enjoyed every minute of it.

We are hoping to get the 306th together again in 1977 at the next 8th Air Force reunion and to get a 306th association formed while some of us still remain.

I talked with Joe and briefly met one of the other gunners on your crew whose name slips my mind now.

I would like to hear from you and add your story to my growing collection.

Sincerely yours,

Russell A. Strong

4900 Appleridge Court, Dayton, Ohio 45424



*Howard Sales* **COMPANY**

2213 NO. TYLER AVENUE SO. EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA 91733 (213) ~~686-1930~~  
579-3256

November 10, 1975

Mr. Russell A. Strong  
4900 Appleridge Ct.  
Dayton, Ohio 45424

Dear Mr. Strong:

I was pleased to receive your letter of November 4th regarding the 306th Bomb Group.

During my travels, I was fortunate to be able to visit with Joe Musial several times in Miami. Of course, as you might know, we always enjoy reminiscing over our war experiences with a few beers.

The other individual you mentioned in your letter is R. K. Holbert, 2214 Fernwood, Knoxville, Tenn. 37918. Kile as he is known was my crew chief. Two other members of my crew are still living. Richard Daniels, bombardier, 85 S. Michillinda, Pasadena, Ca. 91107 and my tail gunner, William Slenker, 7209 Waterford Drive, St. Louis, Mo. 63123. You may wish to contact them to gather information. Regretfully, I just do not have the time available presently to write you the details of my experiences. However, if you visit California I would be happy to see you and discuss them. The only name on the list you enclosed that I recall is William P. Cassidy. He was a pilot as you state and later became operations officer for our Squadron. His whereabouts are unknown to me.

I wish you good luck on your endeavor and if we should meet some time in the future, perhaps I can be of assistance.

Cordially yours,

Howard J. Snyder

HJS:pf

From the desk of

HOWARD SNYDER

2-8-83

DEAR RUSS:

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN  
THE GUY THAT WOKE  
ME UP ONE NIGHT AND  
ASK ME A LOT OF QUESTIONS  
ABOUT MY EXPERIENCES  
WHEN I WAS SHOT DOWN!  
I DIDN'T RESPOND TO MUCH,  
AS I STILL DON'T LIKE TO  
TALK ABOUT IT EXCEPT  
TO CERTAIN PEOPLE WHEN  
THE OCCASION IS JUST RIGHT.  
NOW I WISH WE COULD HAVE  
OVER

TALKED MORE. THERE  
WAS A GREAT DEAL MORE  
TO TELL!

BEST REGARDS

Howard

I LIVED IN ARCADIA, CA.  
WHEN YOU CALLED, THAT  
IS IF YOU DID! I DON'T  
KNOW HOW YOU GOT SOME  
OF THE DETAILS EXCEPT  
FROM ME.

Snyder and Raymond Durvin one of three Belgian patriots who cut Snyder down from the tree he hung up in with his parachute.

The woods in the background is where Snyder landed



Snyder & wife Ruth standing by monument  
at Monceau Imbrechies, Belgium

Monument erected in memory of 12 American  
soldiers killed at this spot Sept. 2nd, 1944

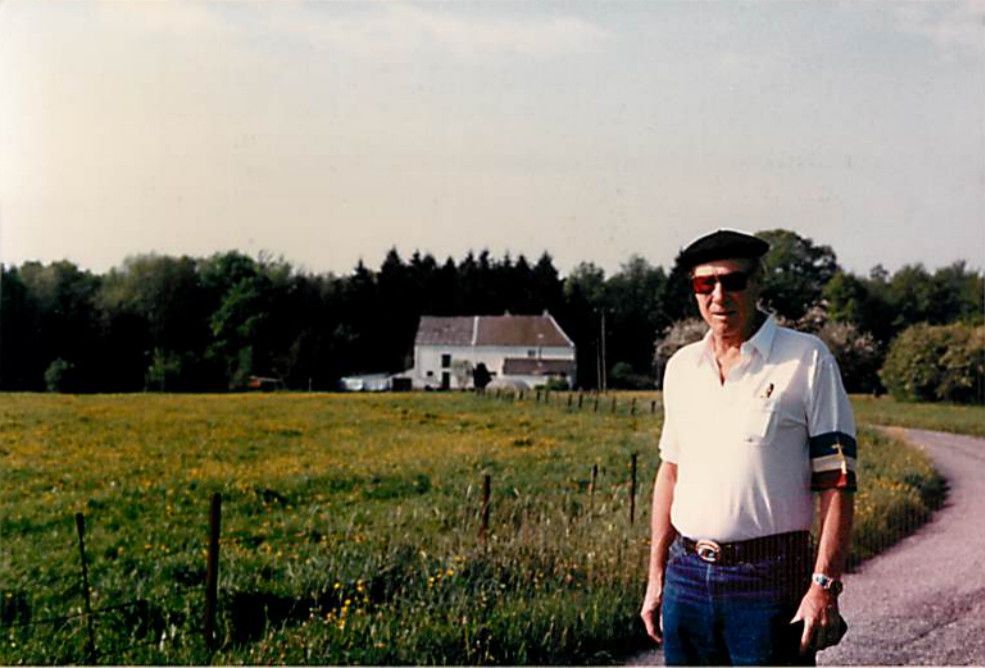
MAY 1988

MAY 1988



2 SEPTEMBRE 1944 11530  
AU TORRENT  
LES PREMIERS BOMBES  
DE LA LIBERATION  
DE LA BELGIQUE BRUXELLES

Snyder standing in front of Belgian farm house where he was hidden for a short time after landing in the wooded area nearby



Snyder and his wife Ruth with the widow of a Belgian patriot named Tilquin who took him from Macquenoise to Chimay on a tandem bike in order to get him away from the Germans who were searching the area around Macquenoise

Snyder presented a medal and citation to her on behalf of the Belgo-Americaine Fondation



Snyder & Musial standing in front of the spot where the bodies of Kahler & Colwart were found, a monument is to be erected at this location and will have the names of George Eike, Robert Benninger, Ross Kahler, Louis Colwart & John Pendroch

Dedication ceremonies will be held  
Sept. 2nd, 1989

Survivors of crew have been invited to participate.

100%



Snyder & Musial were invited to participate in ceremonies May 14th & 15th 1988 at Monceau Imbrechies, Belgium.

A monument has been erected at this location in honor of the 12 Americans killed Sept. 2, 1944 during the liberation of Belgium.

A Belgian organization named, BELGO-AMERICAINE Liberators, headed by Dr. Paul Delahaye (veterinarian) 654 Route De Beauwelz Momignies, Belgium  
Phone: 060/51.12.52

This same organization has purchased the property where our plane hit the ground with the bodies of Kahler & Colwart, at this spot they will erect a monument with the names of George Eike, Robert Benninger, Ross Kahler, Louis Colwart, & John Pendroch.

This monument will be dedicated with proper ceremony, Sept. 2nd, 1989  
All the survivors of Snyders crew have been invited to participate.

Due to the severity of their wounds, Daniels, Musial & Holbert. along with the two dead crewmen were captured almost immediately.

Snyder, Eike, Benninger, Pendroch & Slenker. Were hidden from the Germans fed and sheltered by Belgian patriots in three separate locations. Eike, Benninger & Pendroch were hidden in the Saint Remy woods with other American evadee's until April 22nd, 1944 On this date the woods were surrounded by 1500 German troops resulting in the capture of eight Americans and two Belgians, the two Belgians were sent to a concentration camp (Bushenwald) they have not been heard of since. On the 23rd. of April 1944 following torture and interrogation, the eight Americans were marched single file back to the woods, as they entered the woods they fanned out, two Germans and one American, then at an obviously pre-arranged signal each American was executed by shots in the back. This action was witnessed by Belgian patriots and eye witness accounts were given to Snyder & Musial on their recent visit to Belgium. Snyder was taken to Chimay and several other locations in Belgium, and for approx. seven months was able to evade capture while actively participating in attacks on German convoys etc with the underground (Macqui) until Sept. 1944 when American troops over-ran the area in which he was operating.

Slenker was taken to a farm house near Chimay where he was hidden until the Americans over-ran his location.

Daniels and Musial were taken by the Germans to a Luftwaffen hospital in Brussels, Belgium. then to prison camps in Germany until Feb. 11th 1945 when they were repatriated through Switzerland and returned to the states via the Swedish ship Gripsohlm. Holbert was taken directly to Germany where he remained a prisoner until liberated following V.E.Day.

Five of our crew survived the war. Daniels died a few years ago in Pasadena, Ca The five survivors were able to come home and lead productive lives, raising children and grand children only because of the gallant unselfish bravery of the Belgian patriots who gave them first aid and assistance at the risk of their lives.

There are many stories that can be told by bomber crews shot down on missions during world war 11. The following can be classified as typical.

On Feb. 8th, 1944 while returning from a bombing mission to Frankfurt, Germany. A B-17G bomber piloted by Lt. Howard Snyder. 369th Squadron, 306th Group based at Thurleigh, England. After sustaining considerable flak damage over the target, and with our bomb-bay doors stuck in the open position, creating a tremendous drag on the aircraft, making it practically impossible even at full power settings to keep up with our squadrons formation. Therefore, we were the primary target for the German fighters who shot us down on the French Belgian border near the village of Macquenoise, Belgium.

Our crew consisted of: Howard Snyder, Pilot. George Eike, Co-pilot. Robert Benninger, Navigator. Richard Daniels, Bombardier. Roy Kyle Holbert, Top Turret Gunner. Ross Kahler, Radioman. Louis Colwart, Belly Turret Gunner. Joseph Musial, Left Waist Gunner. John Pendroch, Right Waist Gunner. William Slenker, Tail Gunner.

The fighters shot out our manual controls, set our left inboard engine on fire, killed the Belly-Turret Gunner (Colwart) killed the Radioman (Kahler) Put a 20mm through the Bombardiers upper arm (Daniels) Shot off the Left Waist Gunners lower left leg (Musial) The Pilot (Snyder) and the Top Turret Gunner (Holbert) suffered burns and shrapnel wounds. The Tail Gunner (Slenker) also suffered shrapnel wounds. All of these wounds and damage was inflicted by the German fighters.

Realizing he had no manual controls, Snyder put the plane on auto-pilot and turned on the bail-out alarm. The auto-pilot held the plane in a tight descending spiral to the right which kept the flames from the burning engine away from the fuselage. With the exception of the two crewmen who were already dead, the rest of the crew bailed out. Because the plane remained in a tight spiral, we all landed in our chutes within a short distance of each other. Near the Belgian village of Macquenoise.