

Dear Lord, in other days these determined fighter sat by dim lights and glowing fires.

They dreamed of home, freedom and unknown tomorrows.

They ate when food came their way and when their nerves cooperated.

They fought freedom's cause from dawn into the deep darkness.

Some made it into your welcoming arms.

Others, throughout the years, have flown their lives into this very room.

Tonight we feast and enjoy the glow of candles and the abundance of this banquet. We celebrate the absolute joy of living under the flag of these United States and with the light of Liberty's torch.

For all this we are thankful.

In this we recognize you as being our God.

This invocation was given at the Nashville reunion banquet by Chaplain (Cpt) Ronald D Lowery. Tennessee National Guard.

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Howard Hatch
827 squadron

Howard Hatch, belly Gunner on Ed Eibs's crew passed away March 28, 1990.

The 484th Bomb Group was hit hard by very aggressive fighter attacks on June 13, 1944. Old #71 (42-53661) piloted by Ed Eibs and was forced to land at Dubendorf, Switzerland. Belly Gunner Howard Hatch was interned in Switzerland with the rest of the crew. Internment was not easy, crippled airplanes of the Allied Air Forces were often shot at by attacking Swiss ME109's, loss of the aircraft and life was not uncommon. Internment camps were often located high in the Swiss Alps to hinder escape attempts. Conditions were quite similar to POW camps in Nazi Germany. Thin walled unheated huts offered little protection from the elements. Food given to the internees was barely edible.

He was released after 8 months of captivity. Returning to the States he went into construction work, married and raised



Ed Eibs(L) and Howard



Back of Howard Hatch's A-2 Jacket, "Sinful Cynthia."

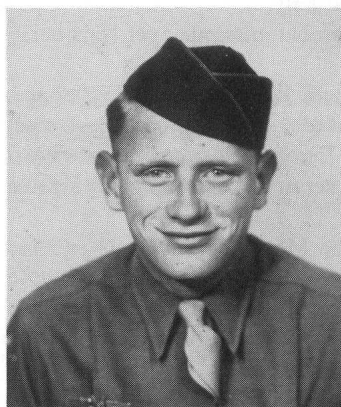
THE LAST MISSION

two sons. Howard and his wife Betty kept in touch with other members of his crew over the years and were close with Ed Eibs, and Frank Hamilton.

He is survived by his wife Betty, and three grandsons.

Editors Note See page 32 Torretta Flyer 18 Ed Eibs Obituary for the story of the forced landing in Switzerland.

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Thomas M Hagie
764 squadron.



Tom Hagie

Thomas M Hagie 68, passed away December 25, 1990 after a long illness. Tom was the nose gunner on the crew piloted by James H Spencer. Tom flew 35 missions, and earned three oak leaf clusters to his air medal. The crew's co/pilot Herbert H Hartford who was killed on the crew's second mission was replaced by Allen H Anderson. Their plane "Miss Kaye" was named for the Group CO's daughter. It was assigned to Spencer's crew later. He was discharged with the rank of

Staff/Sgt.

After separation he went back to his job at Lettery Kenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pa. He retired as Supervisor of the electric division in 1980. During his later years there he started an after hour and Saturday electric service business and had it established when he retired. He worked on sawmills, Dairy equipment and silos. He worked at this business full time after retirement and up to six months before he passed away. All of his customers respected him because he always responded to their calls.

Tom was a great guy, and was an asset to the crew. He was a great family man. He had three children, one boy and two girls and they loved their Dad.

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Charles Elessi
824 squadron

Charles Elessi passed away June 30, 1990. Notice received from Edward J Bernhardt

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David J Thomas
766 squadron

David J Thomas, pilot died September 3, 1990 in tragic accident when he fell from a tractor that got stuck in the mud at the edge of a pond and drowned. He had suffered from multiple sclerosis which may have been a contributing factor in his death.