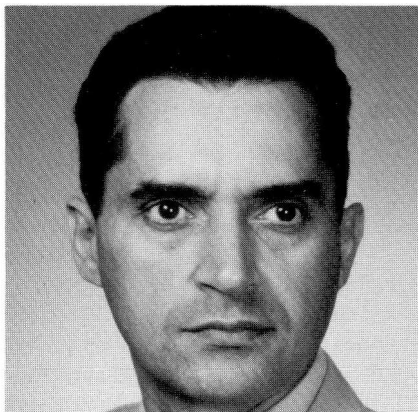


Frank E. Oliver



Frank E. Oliver Bombardier 826 Sq. died December 19, 1993, in his Carmichael, CA home after a long battle with cancer. He was 77. He was born July 10, 1916 .

Frank's plane was shot down on October 14, 1944, on a mission to Blechhammer. The crew was forced to bail out after encountering engine trouble over Yugoslavia.

He landed by himself near the river Ona. Dazed from hitting a tree on descent, he ran further into the hills but couldn't go far because of a torn ligament in his knee. Several people were searching the hill side, when he saw one wearing a red star, he hailed him. He was then taken to partisan troops nearby. He eventually was rejoined by the rest of his crew and other escapees and civilian refugees who had been rounded up by the partisans and brought to a British Mission about one month later. A British Major from the Mission put Oliver in charge of the party that now totaled about 126 persons and was then responsible for transporting the group in stages to Zara where they were taken aboard a British ship for transfer to Italy.

His actions while behind enemy lines, which included evading capture and bringing Allied ex-prisoners of war to safety, earned him the Legion of Merit Award. Mr. Oliver also received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart. In his last four years of active military duty, he served as director of procurement at McClellan AFB. He retired from McClellan Air Force Base as a colonel in 1963 after 24 years of service.

Survivors include his wife of 38 years, Elizabeth L. Oliver , children, Kirk Oliver and Heather Siercks , and three grandchildren.

Edmund S. Piantek

Edmund S. Piantek, 80, 825 Sq. died in Hopewell New Jersey on March 21, 1993. Born in Bayonne, NJ Mr. Piantek , retired as a resident engineer and draftsman for Western Electric after 35 years.

He was a member of the 484th Bomb Group Association since 1982 and was a POW. He was awarded the air medal and the African-Middle Eastern service medal. He was a charter member of the Air Force Association, a member of American Legion Post 159, and a member of the Caterpillar Club, having made a life-saving jump from a disabled aircraft.

Son of the late Leon and Maryanna Piantek, he is survived by his wife, Jean Scott Piantek, a sister, Josephine Mierzejewski , a grandson, Jeffrey Scott, and a cousin, Ida Nerowski

Louis W Ranger

Louis W Ranger 825 Sq. an ordnance specialist, passed away December 29, 1992, after an illness of five years that kept him from active participation in the Association. He lived in Syracuse, NY

Milton J Ring

Milton J Ring 69, 827 Sq. has passed on (May 26, 1993) He was born Nov. 14, 1923 in Norwich, CT the son of the late George F. and Harriet Lafferty. Mr. Ring had been employed for 21 years as a letter carrier with the U.S. Postal Service prior to his retirement. He was a retired lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Air Force, and had served in World War II as a bomber pilot He was a recipient of the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, a distinguished unit badge, and the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He served in the USAF for 20 years.

2nd/Lt Milton Ring Co/Pilot in the 827 Sq. and flew 30 missions when the war in Europe ended. Member Joe Shugrue reports that " Milt was a good and brave man and was always a kind friend to me."

In addition to his wife Monica, survivors include three sons, Joseph A Ring of Oviedo, Fla., James A. Ring of Norwich, and Thomas A Ring of Plainfield; two daughters, Patricia A. Ford of Washington, D.C., and Elizabeth A Slezak of Plainfield; two brothers, George F. Ring Jr. and Ken-

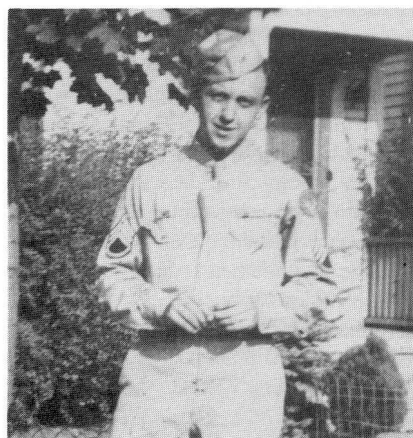


Milton Ring
neth J. Ring, both of Norwich; five grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

His Crew: Kenneth G Rounds-P, Milton J Ring-C/P, James R Mercer Jr-N, Howard U Heller-B, William E Novak-E, Paul F Megonigal-G, John E Parker-R/O, Kenneth E Crockett- G, Solomon S Ostrovsky-G, and James E Ellis-G

(See also James E Ellis obituary page 38.)

Stephen Smith Jr



Stephen Smith Jr., 70, Fulton, NY, 825th Sq. Electrical Specialist, passed away 3 February 1993. After enlisting in the Army Air Corps in 1942, Steve was stationed at Fort Niagara, NY and Atlantic City, NJ. He was then assigned to Seymour Johnson Field, NC as a mechanic instructor on the B-15. In 1943, while at Seymour Johnson Air Base, Steve met and married Edith Barrow of LaGrange, NC.

Steve's association with the B-24 began when he was assigned to Chanute Field in Rantoul, IL. He was then sent to Harvard, NE. From there, he shipped out March 1944