

### *Al Freedman 824 Sq*

Al Freedman, R/O on Ralph J Hallenback's crew passed away April 13, 1994. As a member of the Association since 1991, he enjoyed receiving the Torretta Flyers, and had hoped that he could attend one of the reunions. He will be in Dayton next year in spirit.

### *Homer E. Lecklitner 824 Sq*

Homer E. Lecklitner, R/O on Earl C Downey's crew, was born in 1922 and passed away April 21, 1992. He joined the 285-10A crew in Pueblo Colorado in October of 1944. There he took his combat training as radio operator and waist gunner. He was married in 1943 to his wife Phyllis and they would have celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary in 1993. He is survived by his wife Phyllis, three children, and seven grandchildren. He was affectionately known to his crew and friends as Leck. On his fourth mission he flew with another crew as their radio man was ill. Over the target they were severely damaged by flak and had to jettison all the guns and everything that was not tied down. They even tried to drop the ball turret and managed to get it down but could not break it loose. Then when they saw it would not drop out they tried to raise it and it would not budge. They managed to get to the coast of Yugoslavia and saw they could not make it across the Adriatic Sea. They landed with the ball down. A few days later he was flown back to the 824th in a C-47. We were all certainly relieved to see him and got a big kick out of the story as he related his experiences with Tito's army. We will all sorely miss Leck he was a fun loving wonderful guy.



Leck flew 24 missions and was awarded the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Reported by Al Kline 824 Sq

### *Leonard B Marshall 826 Sq*

Leonard B Marshall R/O on Ray A Foss' crew is reported deceased 9/3/90. See pages 36-38 for Leonard Marshall's wartime letters to his wife, Jeanette. His Crew:

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Ray A Foss (D) -P          | Alan F Patterson-C/P |
| Allan F Patterson-C/P      | Walter Fair-B        |
| Johnnie E Bodine-E         | Gaylord Carter-G     |
| Donald O Maves--G          | Michael Scorca-G     |
| Kenneth R Monsell (D)-N/G. |                      |

### *Lane McKone 825 Sq*

Lane McKone of Dover, New Hampshire died Monday, August 29, 1994, after a period of failing health. He was born March 9, 1918 in Seattle, Washington. He was the Navigator on Rueben Kaiser's crew,

He spent his early years in West Orange, N.J., and graduated from Newark College of Engineering. He was a Dover resident for the past 30 years.

He was a veteran, becoming a First Lieutenant as a navigator with the 484th Bomb Group in Italy during World War II. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

Survivors include: his wife, Janet (McIntosh) McKone of Dover; two sons and three daughters, two grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

Reported by Calvin R. Teel 825 Sq

This story was printed in the local Dover newspaper:

War for Lane McKone was like school: you did what you had to do and then you graduated to another part of your life. But it wasn't a class you could drop out and flunk. In 1944, during the Allied assault on Hitler's Fortress Europe, this was a very deadly kind of school.

McKone a navigator on a B-24 that saturated the Nazi stronghold in German and Austria, twice came near to never making it out of class. Twice his bombing missions ended in destruction. McKone and nine members of the crew were dumped in the frigid February waters of the Adriatic Sea. Another time the crew ditched their bullet riddled bomber and parachuted behind enemy lines in Yugoslavia.

For Lane McKone and most of the generation coming of age in the midst of the great depression, it was a European tour far different from the tour of the continent that in earlier years capped schooling for the American elite. McKone was 24 and working in a factory in West Orange, New Jersey when the war effort began to kick into gear. "I signed up," McKone says. "In the factory more and more women and older men were coming into work.

He toured Europe in the belly of a bomber, becoming as comfortable with its geography as the creases on the navigation maps. But the Europe he saw was one ravaged by six years of war. A Europe with its land blasted, its people shocked and massacred, its nations and governments rocked to their foundations. "Coming back from a bombing raid, I noticed for miles looking to the east-every town and village in sight were on fire. It was the conquering Soviet Army moving across the land setting structures ablaze as they went. "One mission, a fuel line was damaged from flak after the bomb run on a mission to Vienna, they were forced to parachute into Nazi held Yugoslavia. The ball turret gunner was killed, but the whole crew received injuries of one kind or another.

The main thing we learned was: Don't do anything dumb. Also, you get what you call hardening. You've seen what you think is the worst, so anything else must be easy," McKone says.

