



## Contents Of The New Web Site

**For Those Of You Without Internet Access, The Web Pages Of The 484th Bomb Group Association Have Been Changed. Today it looks like the following:**

### Introduction

The 484th Bomb Group Association was formed in 1981 to bring together personnel that served with this B-24 group, and to record the achievements of the group's 208 missions during WWII through its magazine. The 484th holds yearly reunions in different cities throughout the continental United States. The association publishes the magazine "The Torretta Flyer," and awards selected scholarships to high school graduates. The association has planted trees and installed plaques in the Memorial Park adjacent to the United States Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio, and at Arlington National Cemetery.

### The 1999 Reunion In St. Louis

The St. Louis Airport Marriott Hotel will host the 1999 reunion of the 484th Bomb Group October 6 to 10, 1999. Room rates for members and guests are \$77.00 per night for single to quad occupancy. For phone reservations call the hotel direct at (314)423-9700. Mail reservations should be sent to Central Reservation Office, St. Louis Marriott, 10600 Pear Tree Ln. St. Louis, MO, 63134-4198. E-mail[ bud484bg@aol.com ] or phone Bud Markel at 310-316-3330 and request the reunion package.

### Reunions Held By the 484th BG

Previous Reunions have been held in Torrance, CA 1981, United States Air Force Museum, Dayton, OH 1982 and 1995, Williamsburg, VA, 1983, Orlando FL 1984, Torrance, CA Annual Meeting 1985, San Antonio, TX 1986, Colorado Springs 1987 in conjunction with the 15th AF, San Francisco, CA 1988, New Orleans 1989, Nashville, TN, 1990, Kansas City, MO 1991, Dearborn, MI 1992, Harrisburg, PA 1993, Carnival Cruise 1994, San Diego, CA 1996 Washington, DC 1997, Tucson, AZ 1998, St. Louis, MO 1999.

### Life During The War years

The twentieth century was torn apart by three major wars

that effected the lives of millions of people. Some historians will say that WWII was the most traumatic event of the century. This was certainly true of the period from 1933 to 1948. The WWII Generation was thrust into war at the time when the country was least prepared to fight with a standing army of only 110,000 men. The country was isolationist and wanted nothing to do with the war that was brewing in Europe. The huge Atlantic ocean that separated the new world from the old was soon to shrink, as thousands of bomber crews would deliver their own aircraft to the battle front over the ocean.

The enemies of peace were already planning to unleash the most brutal war of all time, and millions of lives would be wasted on the whim of the German military and its political leaders. A total war was necessary to bring this unchained evil to heel. It called on the youth of America, the high school and college students, to defend the country and defeat the enemy. These fuzzy cheeked kids were asked to save the world for humanity, which they were ill prepared to do. But no matter, the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 emptied the classrooms of young men anyway. They were soon to learn how to fight, and with a big stick.

This came at a time when the main interest of young men was the opposite sex, love had to be postponed while a war was fought. Bomber and fighter crews of the United States Army Air Forces however did the next best thing, they decorated the bombers and fighters of the Eighth and 15th Airforces with paintings of scantily clad ladies. In essence, it was the fair sex we were fighting for.

The men of WWII were a proud generation who experienced a quick transition from the serene life of young manhood, model planes and chopped model A Fords. Thrown into the jaws of war the men-boys were not prepared for the quick life and death decisions that war demands. Our values of good and bad were threatened from what we saw and what we had to do. You learned not to make permanent friendships. These new friends would just disappear in a bright flash in the sky followed immediately with black smoke. They were here today and gone tomorrow, happenings that were never quite accepted by the schoolboys inside them. The memories of buddies missing in action (MIAs) and killed in