

Resident Spotlight



Mr. Ed Alexander

Ed Alexander was born and raised in



Cincinnati, Ohio, where he attended the University of Cincinnati on a tuition and job scholarship in both football and baseball. Ed graduated in 1940 with a BS in Physical Education. Ed enlisted in the Naval Reserve for a one month cruise on the USS Arkansas, New York to Panama and return and, then, on to Annapolis for three months to become an Ensign. He received a medical discharge from the Navy, and was classified as 4F because of a broken nose, which occurred in his sports activities.

In 1941 Ed was at Ft. Thomas, KY being reclassified from 4F to 1A. He told the Draft Board not to count on him because he planned to take the Aviation Cadet exam the next day. He passed the Aviation Cadet exam and was on my way to Santa Ana, CA for Preflight school. Ed was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant on December 17, 1942 with a 1035, Bombardier rating.

1942

- PreFlight School: Santa Ana, CA
- Primary School: San Diego, CA
- Bombardier School: Midland, TX

1943

- 12th AntiSubmarine Sqd: B-18, B-24, B-25; Langley Field, VA
- Navigation School: Miami, Fl - Achieveda 1034, Navigator rating
- 12th AntiSubmarine Sqd: B-24; Langley Field, VA
- B-24 Pre-combat training: Blythe, CA

1944

- Squadron Bombardier, 492nd BG, 859 Squadron; AFSAT Orlando, FL
- 492nd Bomb Group Alamogordo, NM
- 492nd Bomb Group North Pickenham, England
- 467th Bomb Group Rackheath, England

- Ed was part of the crew and plane from the 791BS of the 467th BG. The crew was that of 1Lt. William R. Chapman, pilot, flying A/C B-24J 42-50599, on Group

Mission #196 - Berlin. Cpt. Edwin J. Alexander had been the Squadron Bombardier of 788th BS of the 492nd BG and was also the pilotage navigator for this mission.

Note: Ed flew 8 combat missions with the 492nd Bomb Group including the first raid on Politz and was among those reassigned to the 467th Bomb Group, 788th Squadron with whom he flew additional 18 missions with.

Visit the website, <http://www.492bg.com> and then click on Personnel Index to read about the Mishap of Crew 92 on Group Mission #196, where Cpt. Edwin J Alexander had been the Squadron Bombardier of 788th BS of the 492nd BG and was also the pilotage navigator for the mission. The plane was shot down over Berlin on March 18, 1945.

- 467th Bomb Group Rackheath, England

Combat Service with the 467th Bomb Group

The return to England took about 6 weeks with an American plane from Poltava, Ukraine picking up the crew in Lublin, Poland and returning to Poltava. As Ed had a 1034 Navigator rating there was sufficient crew to fly a B-24 from Poltava to Bari, Italy. The aircraft was checked out and ready to leave when the announcement came that President Roosevelt had died. This held up the flight two weeks. Ed made the trip to Bari and was transferred to a B-17 to fly to London and, then, to the 467th Bomb Group at Rackheath. The 467th had completed their missions by this time. The Chapman crew and Ed were sent to a rest camp, after which they returned to Rackheath and, then, to the United States.

After a month at home, Ed reported to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with expectations of being assigned to the Pacific theater. However, the war ended in the Pacific and Ed was separated from military service at Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin.

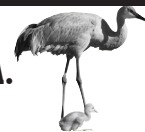
After the war

Charley Barrett, the squadron S2 Intelligence Officer in the 492nd Bomb Group, recommended Ed to the Cory Corporation, a manufacturer of coffee brewers and other appliances in Chicago. He was hired as a salesman and became Sales Manager and, then, V.P of Sales of the Restaurant and Institutional Division. Ed stayed with the Cory Corporation for 31 years. Hershey Corporation bought the company so, for the last ten years of his employment, he was part of the Hershey Corp. Ed retired in 1977.

Note: See the Pravda story, "They Met in '45" in the linkson the website. This tells of

the relationship developed, after twenty-one years, with the Russian Colonel Ed had met upon parachuting into Germany. On April 24, 1943 Ed married Mary Roark at Langley Field. After 59 great years of marriage, Mary passed away on January 29, 2002. Ed has a son, Bill, who retired from the Air Force after 29 years with the rank of Colonel. Bill and his family reside in the Washington, DC area.

"For the Birds" by A.A.



Here is the Bird List for the 14th Fairway Pond:

- Anhinga
- Bald Eagle
- Red Shouldered Hawk- a pair and family
- Wood Stork- usually a singleton
- Glossy Ibis- too many, a plethora*
- White Ibis-
- Mallard
- Moore Hen - pair and family, plus one cripple
- Sandhill Crane- pair and child, 2nd family this year, recognized by crippled female

A few singles (probably juveniles), plus another family with one juvenile

- Great Blue Heron
- Little Blue Heron
- Great Egret
- Snowy Egret
- Black Bellied Whistling Duck
- Mallard
- Rock Dove
- Mourning Dove
- Robin- migrating through
- Sparrow- migrating through
- Blue Jay
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- Black Vulture
- Turkey Vulture
- Roseate Spoonbill- single, occasionally

- Black birds
- Starlings
- Grackles
- Crows
- Wild turkeys- usually a pair

*I like to work in this word when I can. No wonder the coffee table book of choice is a birders book and the item of choice is binoculars on the 14th fairway pond! Can any pond beat this?