The Last Mission

Meyer Brownstein, 764 Sq. of Burbank, California died February 6, 1990. He leaves his wife, Marjorie, two sons; Don, and Richard A Brownstein; two brothers Max, and Abe Brownstein, and four grandchildren, Meyer attended many of the Association's reunions, Williamsburg 1983, Orlando 1984, and San Antonio 1986. He enjoyed the company of his wartime buddies at the reunions.

He was part of the ground echelon, specifically aircraft maintenance, and was mostly assigned to ship #13.

Albert "AL" C Hitzing, 824 sq, 72 years 484th Bomb Group has succumbed to cancer. He died May 10, 1990. He is survived by his wife Holly Hitzing, four brothers, and and five sisters.

Al was a well known Florida businessman who took a small grocery store in North Fort Myers and built it into a thriving financial network. A native of Montana, he was raised in Jacksonville. After a tour of duty with the 824 squadron, 484th Bomb Group in Italy during World War II as a B-24 bomber pilot, Hitzing settled in North Fort Myers with his wife Holly.

They bought the old "Town Hall" nightclub a 3500 square foot wooden structure and opened "Al's Grocery and Market" in 1947. The original store employed three people, the Hitzings and a butcher. But by the time Al retired in 1981, he had expanded his ventures into a multimillion dollar a year empire employing hundreds in the grocery, hardware, and appliance retail businesses.

Al believed in promotions and set a new trend years ago with his outside tent sales; giving away 30 pounds of choice beef with the purchase of a major appliance; free breakfasts of hot cakes and sausages; marathon sales with stores remaining open around the clock.

"When we first opened 'Al's' we hired four people to man the phone lines," his wife Holly said recently. "He had hired boys to distribute handbills with the store's phone number and then we sat back and waited for the phone to ring. But it didn't. We really hadn't thought about it, but not that many people had telephones back then."

From then on one success led to other ones, and he was on his way to a successful business career. 

Joe Horn 767 sq, 66 died suddenly March 26, 1990, of an apparent heart attack. He had helped his son Joey unload hay for the livestock that morning and talked about going to the Nashville reunion. Joe was an armorer and loaded bombs, and shared the same tent with Harold Miller. Joe attended the Williamsburg reunion in 1983. He was very close with his daughter, Tracy and gave her away in marriage the previous September.