

MARCH 1982

2nd EDITION HDQ.SQD. 403rd Sqd. 63rd Sqd. 64th Sqd. 65th Sqd. MARCH, 1982

GREETINGS-- The last newsletter reported on the December 81 reunion in San Antonio and supplied a list of all contacts. This report will list those who attended. by squadrons. with news items gathered at the reunion and from letters to the writer. But first. some announcements:

NOTE-- 1982 REUNION. The definite date for the 1982 reunion is the LAST WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER, 1982 (24-26) in Oklahoma City. LOCATION AIRPORT WEST HOLIDAY INN AND HOLIDOME - located on Interstate 40. 600 rooms - all facilities - \$40.00 single, \$46.00 double. Arrangements have been made by ART HANE, 403rd Sqd., from Purcell, Okla. and you will be receiving registration applications soon. Notice of 43rd reunion will be in several service publications. but you can help by writing short letters to your large newspapers and calling former 43rd friends.

OTHER ANNUAL MEETINGS OF INTEREST: 90th Group - Jolly Rogers - Cheyenne, Wy. Sept. 9-12, 1982. 380th Group. Dayton. Oh, Sept. 30 - Oct. 3, 1982.

HDQ. & HDQ. SQD.

Present at San Antonio: Father Thomas Shea, Fred McAllister and Phil Welch. NEWS: Former Gp. Surgeon. Eugene Austin, lives in Evansville, MD, plans to attend in Sept. The man who located Father Shea was Louis Alpe, West Helena, Ark., a good man to know, he has a liquor store. Cyrus Michaels, Philadelphia, PA, former Gp. Sgt. Mjr., is working on Gp. history. He welcomes all info you have. Larry DeRusha, Santee, CA. was communications chief on tower at Jackson Air Force Base, Moresby, the night Ken McCullar went down; Larry also remembers that Bangor, Me. airbase was renamed Dow for 43rd man killed in Bismark Sea battle. Dave Hassemer, Westchester, PA. has plans to retire to AIR FORCE VILLAGE near San Antonio. Ken Mace, photojournalist. Garnett, KA. sent pix of Bob Hope visit to 43rd in 1944. Col. Jim Pettus, former 43rd Comdr. 44-45, called from home in Hawaii during Dec. reunion. hopes to get to Okla City. Father Shea had pleasant and profitable vacation in Puerto Rico recently. Russ Sederburg, Port Orchard, WA. has many contacts for future meets. Phil Welch and another great supporter at the 1981 reunion, Fred McAllister. Also, word from a former Deputy Comdr. of the 43rd, from Batavia, NY. Harry Staley who is recovering from a recent operation. Also received word that Col. James A. Barnett of Decatur, GA, had passed away in 81, he was also in the 63rd 42-43.

403rd Sqd.

At San Antonio, 81:: Joe D. Lawhn. K. L. Dawson, James R. Terhune Jr., Steve Blount, 3rd, Max M. Axelsen. Sid Lee.

NEWS: Nelson Brouillette, Seattle. WA. remembers helpful hint from Father Shea about how to fill a sock with gravel for protection from unfriendly troops. Harold Barrett, cotton farmer from O'Donnell, TX missed Dec. meeting because of cotton harvest. Sept. will suit him better. Steve Blount, 3rd is independent oil operator and big fan of Dallas Cowboys. Lucian Kanopa, funeral director in Buffalo Grove, IL, has long list of 403rd and 6th AF members. Some responses are Glenn Conway, M.L. Crabb, Lloyd Burnett, and John Pasternack. Also, Hy Marder of Philadelphia, PA tells a good story about how he and Bill Eaton lost a bet on use of watch for target practice. Bill Welch, Grand Junction, CO, former 403rd C.O., was at Pearl Harbor on Dec 7 for 40th reunion. He was this writer's reserve boss as Wing C.O. at Pope AFB, N.C. in 1965. James Vatch is Fire Chief of Ravenna, OH.

DEATH: Merle Driever, Sept. 25, 1978, Seattle, WA.

63rd SQD.

At San Antonio - 81 : Bill Laird, Al Fischer, Ken Eiden, Tony DeAngelo. Bill "Radar" Hoover, Joe "Chunky" Wilfert, R. H. "Rhett" Butler, Wathen Cody, Carl Hustad, Tyson Barnes, Jim Murphy, E. J. James, Stan Ensberg, Harvey Bancroft, Carroll "Buckshot" Sinclair, Roger Vargas. Bill Ditz, Lloyd Anderson, Chris Sunderman, Bill Church, Richard Wood, Joe Hirsh, Jimmy Dieffenderfer, Ken Ekstrom. (BECKSTROM)

NEWS: Lloyd Anderson's youngest child, son Ole. age 27 will be first American to work in China with Peace Corps. Ted Oeff's daughter Terri is the current Miss Texas, and was one of the 10 finalists in the Miss America Pageant. D. M. Anderson, former bombardier and now retired lawyer, welcomes visitors in Newton.

Miss. Bill Ahl, 63rd navigator, now runs duck and pheasant hunting clubs in the northern Sacramento Valley. "Radar" Hoover visited with Joe Hirsh in Georgetown, TX after reunion. Joe has good contact with Japanese General Yunokama who may come for future meeting. Carl Hustad is in steel business in Minneapolis, MN. E.C. "Jack" Jackson of St. Petersburg, FL has extra copy of "Down Under" highest bidder. Ken "Gus" Kelly of Ft. Myers, FL crewed on 1st Radar B-24 in 63rd LAB. Tony Kinish, Portland, OR was carpenter in 63rd with Bill Ditz, if heart condition improves he hopes to see Bill, Thomas Rote, and John Ondris in Sept. John Lombard, prominent lawyer in Seattle, WA. faces drastic action from J. Murphy and rest of crew if he doesn't show up in Okla. Lou "Swift" Prifti of Arlington, VA is ardent supporter with public relations background. Folmer Sogaard was 63rd C.O., now Centralia, WA Chamber of Commerce. R.H. "Rhett" Butler returned Jan. 12, 1982 from 15 day trip to Russia via Russian aircraft. DEATH: Marshall Terrell, Paris, TX (see excerpt from DeRusha letter).

64th SQD.

At San Antonio 81: Larry DeHaven. Chas. Giddings. Howard "Andy" Anderson, A. B. LeClaire, Troy McConnell, John E. McCosker, Chas. Sullivan, Allen Nelson, Dean Brown, Robert Goodwin, Robert Cooper, H. T. "Ace" Hastings. Waldo Schauweker, J. B. Young, Ray Holsey, Charles McClenny, Tommy Barnett. NEWS: Vince Acito, Norwood, Mass. has good slides of action at Clark and Te Shima and artwork on B-24s. "Andy" Anderson, Baldwin Park, CA is avid history buff, and has good list of SW Pac. history. Drop in to see Bob Beauden, Sr. at REVANA Restaurant if you are in Bossier City, LA. also Lees Broome & Troy McConnell of the same city. Joe Chepulis, 32 Gaylord Ave., Plymouth, PA 18651, lost all his records in 72 flood. He would like copy of Gp. yearbook and picture of B-24 "Shawnee Raider". Larry DeHaven, San Antonio, TX just retired as Scout for the San Francisco Giants, bought a new motor home, and is driving to British Columbia, hopes to be back in time for Sept reunion. Larry was crew chief on "Lovely Lanette" (crashed) and "Hips Parade", B-24's used by Bob Hope on tour. Alvin Haas of Des Plaines, IL is a real old timer from early 43rd days at Langley, VA in 1941; he has supplied many names from those days. Another old timer is Bob Hall of Carmel, N.Y. It was great to hear some of the stories of Ray Holsey, Altus, OK when he and McCullar had small conference with Col. Roger Ramey, 43rd C.O. in 1943 about incident at Moresby Officers Club. Ray also rounded up Chas. Giddings of Buhl, Idaho for the reunion in 81. H.T. "Ace" Hastings of Dennison, TX is temporarily retired as airline captain but now has lots of time for his golf. Cloyd Holt of Kalamazoo, Mich. sent in dues along with seven new names. Clinton Lockamy, Houston, TX had to cancel 81 reunion when his wife got sick, but for sure he will be in Okla City in Sept. Also, from Dennison, TX, Al LeClaire had a good time at San Antonio. Working for Hewlett-Packard is "Lucky" Stevens of Mt. Lake, N.J. He recently did a free fall parachute jump from a C-141 and works on plane restorations at Dover, Del. in spare time. Thomas Doyle, Wynnewood, PA. sent good official data on 43rd Gp. and 64th Sqd.; data will be forwarded to Dick Wood, Saratoga, CA.

65th SQD.

At San Antonio 81: Lloyd "Breezy" Boren. Mel "Dutch" Ehlers, Chas. "Chuck" Edwards, Max Osborn. Earl Reshaw, J. T. Britton and "Dutch" Bendetti. NEWS: "Chuck" Edwards just retired from Rockwell Intl Don Baker of Alvin TX sent name of George Fingers, Rancho Cucamonga, CA. He is father of baseball pitcher, Rollie Fingers. "Dutch" Bendetti is a retired law professor in Calif. Herbert Brune, rancher in Sealy, TX, had to cancel plans for 81 reunion when his father had stroke. Fred C. Cooke, realtor, of Ft. Walton Beach, FL, marched in Anzac Parade in Sydney, Australia, April 81. Thanks to Dr. Milton Gusack, Wash. D.C., Col. Jim Pettus was located. Dr. Chet Kennedy, Conway, Ark., retired chemistry prof. remembers when "Dutch" Ehlers got bullet in butt, recalls when J. T. Britton was co-pilot with Jay Zeamer on a mission when J. Sarnoski was killed. Max Osborn, an attorney in Cheyenne, WY, is going on S. Pacific tour with Governor of WY, former marine. Max will report on trip at Sept. reunion, with slides.

As I expected, when this effort to reunite the old 43rd was started, there would be some sadness along with the good news of getting together again. Many old friends have gotten back in touch and this is typified by the excerpt from Larry DeRusha about the late Marshall Terrell and their brothers. As a postscript to this story, Mrs. Terrell wrote that she and Marshall made a trip back to Australia before he died, but things were not the same.

PERPT: Letter from Larry DeRusha, Feb. 18, 1982. "Now one more story I have to tell you. In one of your letters you included a copy of Marshall Terrell's wife, when she related her husband had died, and sure wished he were alive to attend [the reunion]. Well, that name stuck in my mind, and finally I had to write her.

When I got ready to come home back in Oct. 44, I had a brother who was Gen. McArthur's barber at Hollandia. So I decided of course to stop and visit a day or so and be on my way. Well Terrell, who I recognized as being from the 43rd, was also trying to bum a ride on one of the "gooney birds" down to Hollandia. He told me he had a brother there who was killed in the invasion, and wanted to find out where he was buried. Well, I told him about my brother, and promised him we would get a jeep and help him.

So, on our arrival at Hollandia, I called my brother and explained and we went touring all the graveyards that afternoon. Finally found his grave in a very small cemetery. You can imagine how I felt with my brother alive aside me, and his buried there in the ground. Well, I believe Terrell was also on his way home, and he took off for Finschaven that same afternoon. I stayed another day with my brother.

When I arrived at Finschaven, they put me in charge of about 200 men, as 1st Sgt., who were all waiting to return to the States. At any rate, I never saw Terrell again, he wasn't in my camp. So that's why my curiosity got the best of me, and I wrote Mrs. Terrell.

She answered my letter. It is a very nice letter. And she says "Yes, Marshall, her husband, was the one and that he had told her about our being together in Hollandia. Also, that Marshall didn't want his brother brought home to the states because his mother was very ill and it would have been too much for her. So his brother is buried in the Phillipines along with many other Americans. They were married for almost 35 years before he suddenly died."

LOCATOR: Where are they? Some names and last locations who have not responded. If any of our nearly 400 members has a clue, call the writer. David Hirsh -navigator- Brooklyn, N.Y., badly wounded on 1st mission at Milne Bay in 1942. Wm. "Tommy" Thompson last known. Canton. OH. William O'Brien Milwaukee, Wisc. Frank DeNault, Van Tright. DeWolf, Kearny, Nebr. Tailgunner Reser, Miami, FL, E. Schutzman, Pittsburg, PA (he gave me copy of "Down Under"). Herbert Derr, Phoenix, AZ, Jay Zeamer, Medal of Honor winner. Sgt. Petrie, Hannibal, MO. (63rd, he wrote part of Sqd. diary)

These are just a few of the many who haven't heard about the 43rd reunion. I will print others on request in future newsletter.

Another newsletter along with a complete list of all contacts by squadrons will come out in late July. Please keep up with dues to help with expenses for printing, mailing, etc. For info on 1982 reunion, write or call ART HANE, 525 S. Green Ave., Purcell, OK 73080, phone 405-527-3461.

Bob wishes for a good spring and summer.

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POSTSCRIPT: We are now completely on computer, all our mailing labels, news letters, and roster are on disk. We have 397 current names and addresses, and can index them by name, address, city, squadron etc. for printout. The newsletter is put out by word processor. For those of you who wonder why we use first class postage: So we can have the mail forwarded if necessary, and get back the returned and unforwarded mail. When we receive notice that mail is not delivered, we DROP the name from the computer, so it is to your best interest to forward any address changes or modifications directly to Bob or myself. It is a simple matter to add names to the roster, or make corrections. We have completely updated the roster as of this newsletter, but there may still be errors. Please let us know before we put out the July roster. Lloyd