

Nov. 1982

5TH

5th Edition, November 1982 - 63rd, 64th, 65th, 403rd, Hdqrs. Squadrons

GREETINGS to all former members of the 43rd Bomb Group. Some 214 slightly aging young men with wives and friends had a good old fashioned reunion in Okla. City on Sept 24-26, 1982, hosted by the 403rd Recon Sqd and well organized and managed by ART HANE with lots of help from his wife, MAXINE, and family. Art's son and daughter in law, Sherri, were busy for 3 days registering guests and passing out ID cards and 43rd lapel pins furnished by "MIKE" MICHAELS, (Hdq) of Phil. PA. There was lots of talk, getting reacquainted, and hospitality abounding starting with registration on Friday; and ending with goodbyes Monday AM. On Saturday afternoon, one of the high moments of the reunion took place when a 90 minute lecture, with slides, was presented by JOSE HOLGUIN, (65th), retired navigator from Calif. Jose, now a school teacher, was shot down near Rabaul in July of 1943. He was the sole survivor of his crew, and one of only seven survivors out of 70 or more interred there during the war who lived to tell about it. His lecture was well organized and dramatic, and well attended by our group. I hope he can repeat it at the next reunion, and will write a book. He went back to New Guinea recently, located his crashed plane in the jungle, and re-visited the caves where he was imprisoned.

A brief meeting on Sat. morning resulted in a consensus to move ahead as the 43rd Group with BOB BUTLER as Chairman, LLOYD BOREN, Secty., Memberships and Mailings, DICK WOODS, historian, HOWARD "ANDY" ANDERSON, Chairman of the 83 reunion, and FATHER THOMAS SHEA, Chaplain. There was great enthusiasm at this meeting for getting better organized, locating missing 43rd people, and planning for future reunions.

The Saturday night banquet filled the Holiday Inn ballroom, There was good food and music. DALE BARR, of the 403rd, gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge to the Flag and a short memorial to deceased comrades. After the meal, ART HANE introduced those at the head table, then LOUIS "SWIFTY" PRIFTY presented a taped recording by BILL CASTLE, of THE VOICE OF AMERICA, of the epic poem composed by Prifty of the 43rd exploits. This was an inspiring moment, and it was followed by a short talk by "Swiftly" about some of the combat days when he was a ball turret gunner. Recognition was given by BOB BUTLER of messages from HARRY HAWTHORNE, former Group Commander, JOHN BLAIR, wounded navigator, and COL. DUDLEY M. MOORHAUS, present Wing Commander of the 43rd Strategic Wing (SAC), located at Anderson AFB in Guam. Then all present had a chance to introduce themselves, their wives and guests, and several, like CHUCK DOWNES and HAL WINFREY recited memories of the war days. Father Shea closed the formal part of the banquet with a beautiful sentiment of incidents during combat when we were all "In God's Hands". Following this, FATHER SHEA was presented a plaque by TED EOFF. There was much more, some of which may be reviewed on an edited tape of the proceedings to be available upon request from Prifty. After the meal, there was dancing and visiting till much later. A list

New Members, since the July roster, who were in attendance was supplied by ART HANE. List follows: Alden Harclode, Camp Hill, PA, William R. Bryan, San Angelo, Tx, Harold Cross, Phoenix, AZ, Loren E. Jackson, Lompoc, CA, Norman Liedberg, La Mesa, CA, LeRoy Ayres, Honolulu, HI, Virgil Braziel, Houston, Tx, Wayne E. Downing, Thousand Oak, CA, James O. Ellis, Colorado Spgs, CO, (He was original 63rd CO), Charles Nunez, Tampa FL, E. M. Gyerman, Bellville, IL, John T. Parron, Treasure Isl, FL, John F. Berkey, Mt. Holly, NJ, John J. Roche, New Haven, CT, Harry Young, Del Ray Beach, FL.

The following is a complete list by Sqdn of all members attending, the list also supplied by Art Hane.

#### 63RD SQUADRON

MICHAEL BACHI & NAOMI, TYSON BARNES & MARIE, KENNETH BECKSTROM & MAURINE, BOB BUTLER & DORIS, WILLIAM CHURCH & CLEO, WILLIAM DITZ & LORETTA, TED EOFF, CLYDE FARRELL, AL FISCHER & CHARLOTTE, JESS GIBSON & VIRGINIA, JOEL GIBSON & MILDRED, JIMMIE HALE & VIRGIE, JOE "NATHAN" HIRSH & VIRGINIA, WILLIAM "RADAR" HOOVER & VIRGINIA, CARL HUSTAD & GINNY, EPHRON HENRY JAMES, BILL LAIRD & ALYCE, CLARENCE MCFADIN & ANN, DAVID MELICK & JEANETTE, JAMES MURPHY & MARY JANE, FRED NICKEL, R. NYGARD, LOUIS "SWIFTY" PRIFTI, DONALD SCAGGS, HOWARD SIMON & JO, EVERETT "CHRIS" SUNDERMAN & LOTTIE, ROGAR VARGAS & OLGA, CLAYTON WHITE, J. C. WILFERT & CLARA MARIE, RICHARD WOOD.

64TH SQUADRON

HOWARD "ANDY" ANDERSON, ROBERT AUGUSTINE & NAOMI, HENRY BARRETT, BOB BEAUDEAN & LILLIAN, JOSEPH CHEPULIS, LES COFFMAN & HELEN, ROBERT COOPER & JEAN, JAMES DALY, CHARLES GIDDINGS & MARY LANE, ROBERT GOODWIN & EILEEN, BOB HALL & PATTY, RAY HOLSEY, BEN JACKSON & MITTIE, JOE JANKOSKO, DONALD KING & LELA, ALFRED LECLAIRE, CHARLES MCCLENNY, TROY MCCONNELL, BOB MCLARTY & KAYE, ARTHUR MULLIGAN & BEVERLEE, MARSHALL NELSON & BEATRICE, ALLEN NELSON JR. & MARY, JOHN PRESTON & OMER, GLENN REAM & DEILA MAE, WALDO SCHAUWEKER & MARY K., WALTER SISMILICH, ARTHUR TASSONI.

65TH SQUADRON

LLOYD BOREN & HELEN, HERBERT BRUNE & MARIE, AARON BURLESON & MYRA, LOUIS CORDOGAN, ANSLEM DAVID & NELL, J. C. FRONABARGER & DOROTHY, JOSE HOLGUIN & REBECCA, TOM JAMISON & KATHY, ROBERT LEAF, LEE MCGOWN & MILDRED, AUGUSTINE RAPASARDI, EARL RESHAW, SAM RICHMOND & VIRGINIA, CLAUDE SACHSE & OPAL, JACK SILVERRA & EDITH, EDWIN STUELAND, BILL WILSON & MARY LOIS, HAL WINFREY.

403RD SQUADRON

BILL AARNES & HELEN, F. D. "PERCY" ALEXANDER & JUANITA, GEORGE ALLISON & HAZEL, MAX AXELSEN & MARGARET, WARREN "CLANCY" BALES, DALE BARR SR. & GEN, R. B. BELL & FLO, JOE BEVILL & EVE, TED BIBY & LOIS, DEAN BONSALE & SHIRLEY, HARRY BRADLEY & ESTHER, HUGH DEAN BROWN, ROBERT BROWN & MINNIE, ZANE CARTER & SAMMIE, ODIS F. CLEERE, DANA DAVIS, KEN DAWSON & CHICHI, R. M. DAWSON JR. & MURIAL, BILL DAYSON, BOB, CHARLES "CHUCK" DOWNER, KENNY DRAHER, ARTHUR DURBECK & VIRGINIA, LESTER EMERSON & DOROTHY, TALBOT GARNER & WAUNETA, GLENN GOSDA & WILMA, ART HANE & MAXINE, PAUL HART & ARLENE, ERWIN "BUD" HAWK & GRACE, LESLIE HOCK & MAXINE, BILL HOLS & HELEN, JEAN JACK, LOUIS JEDD, TOM JONES, WALTER KICHURA & FLORENCE, LUCIAN "LUKE" KONOPA, SIDNEY LEE & BERNADINE, ELBERT MATHENY & CHARLENE, FORREST MILLINGTON & SON, DONALD, LLOYD MORGAN & BETTY, CHRIS PARR & PAT, PAUL PASKVAN JR. & ELAINE, TOM PELLIOR, W. L. "BILL" WELCH, HARRY URBAN.

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

LOUIS ALPE & JIMMIE, LOYD BUCKINGHAM & GLORIA, DAVE HASSEMER, JEWEL HOLT, THOMAS V. KELLEY, C. FRED MCALISTER JR. & MAURINE, CYRUS MICHAELS, BILL NANCE & PAT, FATHER THOMAS SHEA.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

JIM MURPHY and wife Mary Jane celebrated their 39th anniversary at the reunion.

Marsha Brenneman, 618 Middlebury St., Goshen, IN 46526, is seeking info from anyone in the 65th Sqdn who knew her uncle, WALTER K. BRENNEMAN. He was aircraft comdr., shot down with crew at Bougadjin, near Wewak, Aug 3, 1943. She wants to write a book and would be grateful for any remembrance of Walter.

HAL BRECHT, of Charleston, SC, had planned to come, but heart surgery on August 20, prevented. He says remember me to all my "Panama and Pineapple" buddies.

CYRUS MICHAELS, 1034 Unruh Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19111, will order 43rd shoulder patches and arrange for a re-print of "DOWN UNDER", with photos of 43rd if there are enough requests.

JOSE HOLGUIN urges support of 43rd men for planned memorial at Port Moresby, NG, for all Air Corps men killed in area from all groups concerned. BRUCE HOY, of the National Museum in Papua, NG, will coordinate.

DON BAKER, of Texas, had to miss reunion because of death in the family, also CHUCK EDWARDS of San Antonio due to back injury.

Surely everyone in Okla City noticed the publicity we were given by the Holiday Inn on their sign outside, reading, 403RD SQUADRON 43RD BOMB GROUP, but how many besides HAL WINFREY, AUGUSTINE RAPASARDI and LLOYD BOREN noticed it after the USC Trojan Marching Band (they were staying there) got through with it. It read 403 SQUATS ON 34 BOOB GROUPIES.

Anyone who doesn't know what a PICTORIAL HOSPITALITY ROOM is, will have to see TED EOFF'S room next time.

The record for oldest in attendance apparently goes to MAJOR J. A. HOLT, age 80, from Riverside, CA. The award for the distance award goes to BILL NANCE who, together with his wife, came all the way from Australia.

As complete as possible, the sad news of death in our ranks follows:  
403rd, Arvil McQueen, Mar 81, Alton G. Boyd, Feb 81, Joe Kenney, June 82, James Terhune, Sept 82 ( he is well remembered from the 81 reunion in San Antonio).  
63rd, Merwin Sherline, Sept 82, Ralph Bracey, Herbert Den, John E. Petrie, 1971. 64th, Paul Hiles, May 82.

#### 1983 PLANS

On a happier note, all of the real "Old Timers", and others who came later, look forward to re-uniting aboard that great ship, THE QUEEN MARY, which transported the original elements of the 43rd to Australia in early 1942. The date selected is Sept 30 - Oct 3, and the place is Long Beach, CA, where there are many nearby attractions in San Diego, and March AFB. Also alongside is Howard Hughes "Spruce Goose". We will have a great time there under the direction of HOWARD "ANDY" ANDERSON. More details will be furnished in future newsletters. In the meantime, your chairman will try to encourage REGIONAL MINI-REUNIONS to promote the 43rd roundup, and provide a chance to reunite members who have difficulty in attending the annual reunion. In only 18 months, we have made great progress with the help of the 403rd and active supporters from other squadrons. Our roster now is at 532 members, although all are not active for varying reasons.

#### DOWN TO BUSINESS

In order to keep the ball rolling, we need help from all interested 43rd people, all ranks from 1940 to present. Not just \$10.00 annual dues, but news we can include in the news letter, and especially, accurate names, squadrons, addresses and zips. Any items of interest to the group will be appreciated, ALL expressing interest in the group will still receive the newsletter, but it's too expensive to print and mail the semi-annual roster of addresses without sufficient dues income. Please return the bottom part of this page with info and dues for 1983 so that we can keep all informed and plan for future meetings. In closing, thanks to all for a great meeting in Okla City, and best wishes for a " MERRY CHRISTMAS ". "GOD BLESS US EVERYONE"

R. H. "BOB" BUTLER  
511 FOREST LAKE RD.  
YETTEVILLE, NC 28305

LLOYD BOREN  
102 BEECHWOOD  
UNIVERSAL CITY, TX 78148

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES (FORMER DUTY, PRESENT ACTIVITY, NEWS ETC.)  
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SUGGESTIONS: \_\_\_\_\_  
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INTERESTED IN NEWSLETTER ( ) DUES ENCLOSED ( )

Dues for 1983, \$10.00. Return with above to

R. H. Butler  
511 Forest Lake Rd.  
Fayetteville, NC 28305  
Hm Ph 919-484-3013