

43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC. "KEN'S MEN"



NEWSLETTER 104th EDITION OCTOBER 2007

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Headquarters Squadron
C. Fred McAllister (2008)

63rd Squadron
Edward L. Gammill (2007)
Roland T. Fisher (2009)

64th Squadron
Charles F. McClenny (2006)
Arvid J. Hougum (2007)

65th Squadron
Lehman C. White (2007)
Eldon Lawson (2008)

403rd Squadron
Joseph W. Snyder (2008)
William J. Solomon (2009)

Past Presidents

Robert Butler 1981-1984
George L. White 1985-1987
William H. Wilson, Jr. 1988-1991
Dale F. Barr, Jr. 1992-1993
Max Osborn 1994-1995
James T. Murphy 1996-1997
Samuel F. Commons 1998-1999
Max M. Axelsen 2000-2001
Roger T. Kettleson 2002-2003
Charles Rauch 2004-2005

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again we have had a very successful reunion. Without a doubt **Ann Fletcher, Fred Hagen and Jim Dieffenderfer** hosted one of our very best reunions. My hat is off to them. It appears that those in attendance had quite a delightful and educational experience in the very heart of where so much of the early history of our country took place as our newly created republic was fighting for its independence and the establishment of a new and democratic country. Most of us visited the very place where our Declaration of Independence was debated and finally written and adopted. Our tour guides were very knowledgeable about this early history and its importance to us today.

It is always so sad to convene and see so many of our stalwarts no longer able to endure the journey to and from our cities where the reunions are taking place. We missed them very much. On the other hand many of you have not been able to attend any of our reunions for an extended time because of infirmities that have made travel impossible. Our prayers are with you and were with you at the Memorial Service in the Washington Memorial Chapel at Valley Forge. **Roland Fisher** read a preamble to his very touching and tear rendering memorial that was read to us so elegantly by his son, **Mark**. The number of names read aloud of those who have taken their final flight was perhaps the longest in our history.

Don't forget September 17-21, 2008, for our reunion in Atlanta, GA, hosted by **Amy Nally** and her father, **Sam Commons**. It looks like it will be another great reunion. Get ready to reserve the dates yet to be chosen for our 2009 reunion in Portland, OR. It will be hosted by **Susan Fisher** and her father, **Roland Fisher**.

If you who use the Internet and log onto our web site, you may have noticed a change in the Guestbook file. This was the work of our web mistress and Sweetheart of the 43rd, **Tracy Giliberto**, and her new

husband. Unfortunately professional spammers have been able to leave those many unwanted messages in the Guestbook, and the only way to stop that was to create a new Guestbook that is no longer maintained by the service we hired in the past. Tracy and her husband made that change. Unfortunately, we have lost all of the messages left before the date the new one was created.

You will find information about our recent reunion in this newsletter. Our 43rd BG Elf, **Elain Pierce**, has been hired to work for our Association. This in no way will effect how we handle matters from Snyder, TX.

The Board of Directors voted to remove from our mailing list the names of members who have not paid their dues for two years or more. Widows are exempt from the need to pay dues to remain on our mailing list. Dues have been \$20.00 per year since January 2007. Life membership still remains at the bargain price of \$100.00. See our editor's reminder of where to send your dues and to whom to make out your check. This policy will go into effect as of January 1, 2008. **So if you don't receive an April newsletter next year, it is probably because you overlooked the need to keep your payment of dues up to date. Don't let that happen.**

This will be my last report to you as my term ends at the end of this year when **James Thompson** will take over the reigns as President of the 43rd Bomb Group Association. I feel confident that you will give Jim and his Vice President, **Bud Lawson**, the tremendous support that you gave to me over the past two years. **Ed Gammill** will continue on as our secretary, and **Bill Wilson** will remain our treasurer. It has been both a pleasure and an honor to have served this organization over the past eleven plus years in the various offices of president, vice president, secretary and editor of the newsletter. Other very capable men are now taking their turns to ser- this organization. I want to thank all of those who have been so helpful to me during the past two years as I ser- ved as president of this organization.

I hope to see many of you in Atlanta next September. May God bless each of you.

Jim Cherkauer

*****BOARD OF DIRECTORS*****

Minutes of th Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday September 4, 2007, 7:00 PM at the Doubletree Guest Suites, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, submitted by Edward Gammill

Attendees: James Cherkauer, Pres.; James Thompson, Vice Pres.; Ed Gammill, 63rd Director and Secretary;; Arvid Houglum, 64th Director;; Eldon "Bud" Lawson, 65th Director;; Lehman "Chalky" White, 65th Director;; William "Bill" Solomon, 403rd Director;; Joe Snyder, 403rd Director;; Roger Ketteson, Past Pres.; Sam Commons, Past Pres.; Charles Rauch, Past Pres.; Ann Fletcher and James Dieffenderfer, 2007 Reunion Co-Chair.

REPORTS

1. A motion, to approve the 2006 Board Meeting minutes as published in the October 2006 Newsletter, was made, seconded and passed.
2. The treasurer's report was not available.
3. Ann Fletcher and Jim Dieffenderfer gave a report of the Phildelphia/Valley Forge Reunion. Approximately 130 are registered to attend and the finances appear to be break even or slightly below.
4. Sam Commons reported the progress of the Atlanta, GA 2008 Reunion. He has received the association's supporting funds and made the required down payment to the hotel. Sam also

presented the initial program of activities and a descriptive brochure. Both are included at the end of this newsletter.

5. Eldon "Bud" Lawson, Group Historian reported the status of his efforts to find a home for 43rd Bomb Group memorabilia, diaries, photographs and other data. He is having trouble finding a place that will take historical data, display it, maintain it and keep it.

6. Ed Gammill, Group Recruitment, reported issuing 18 invitations and gaining 2 new members. Finding new members is becoming more difficult, for there is little interest from the post war crowd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Pres. Jim Cherkauer reported another delay in the production of the 43rd History. After what appeared to be good progress, Larry Hickey has informed Jim, that the delay is due to the loss of an assistant, who is off to China for additional education.

2. Director Bill Solomon moved that \$12000 support funding for the 2008 Reunion be provided. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Chair reminded the 63rd, 64th, and 65th Squadrons that each had a Board member whose term expired at the end of 2007 and that they should elect a person to fill that vacancy at the September 4th Squadron meetings. Also it was pointed out, that the By Laws of the Association required that the Board be composed of thirteen members, which precludes a board member of having a dual roll. The Squadrons were directed to correct where necessary.

2. At the request of Pres. Jim Cherkauer, the Board directed that he finalize the negotiations with Elain Pierce, who will continue to perform future work for the association. The association will be billed for work performed, at each quarter, after publishing and mailing the newsletter.

3. The BAD BOY LIST was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously for the President to instruct Elain to stop mailing the newsletter to members who are two or more years in arrears in payment of their dues. The President or the Secretary could grant Life Membership to those who have performed beneficial service to the association.

4. Via e-mail with the Subject: **new husband, new home, new name**—"just wanna inform you that I've just married and moved out to a small town outside of Seattle, way out in the boonies, in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains (Bigfoot country). My new name and address are:

Mrs. Joseph Gilberto, 14016 311 Ave. NE, Duvall, WA 98019-7423" Signed-*Tracy*

So take notice of a new life for the **Sweetheart of the 43rd**. Tracy and her husband have created a new **Guestbook** system that prevents spammer from putting spam/filth on this feature of our web site.

5. Neil Fairbanks moved that the 43rd Bomb Group Association write a letter to support the nomination of Fred Hargesheimer's nomination to the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame. Fred

is the P-38 Photo Reconnaissance Pilot who spoke at our 2005 Reunion. The motion was seconded and after a brief discussion was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned about 10:45 PM.

Minutes of the General Group Meeting on Friday, September 7, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the DoubleTree Guest Suites, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania.

Meeting call to order by the Chair at 9:05 AM. Chair greeted all in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

REPORTS

1. Secretary's Report - A motion from the floor to accept the minutes as published in the October 2006 Newsletter was seconded and passed with thanks from a grateful Secretary.
2. Treasurer's Report - The following is the Association financial status as of September 10, 2007.

**43rd Bomb Group Association
01-01-2007 to 09-10-2007**

Income

Dues	\$	3,770.00
Life Member	\$	1,300.00
Donations	\$	-
Interest	\$	1,697.15
Refund on '06 Reunion	\$	4,087.92
Total	\$	10,855.07

Expences

Printing	\$	2,628.03
Postage	\$	839.24
Bulk Mailing Yearly Fee	\$	-
Web Site	\$	479.40
Checks	\$	-
Gifts for '05	\$	-
2007 Reunion	\$	4,500.00
2008 Reunion Advance	\$	3,500.00
Donation	\$	-
Total	\$	11,946.67

Net

1/1/2007 Beginning Balance	\$ 13,010.03
09/10/2007 Ending Balance	\$ 11,918.43
CD Canyon Investment Co.	\$ 30,000.00
Net Worth	\$ 41,918.43

3. The decisions concerning the Bad Boy List was presented and all members are cautioned to maintain up-to-date dues. In the future, 2 years without payment of dues means loss of membership and no newsletter.
4. The chair reported the health status of Bill Wilson and Max Axelson.
5. The Historian and Membership Committeeman gave their reports.
6. The chair reported the status of 43rd Bomb Group History book. Refer to the comments in the Directors Minutes.
7. Ann Fletcher reported the status of the 2007 Reunion, with the good news, that financially it appeared to be under budget.
8. Amy Nally gave the status of the 2008 Reunion, which is scheduled September 17 through 21 in Atlanta Georgia. **The presentation included an activities list, a planning notice for attendees and a colorful brochure. These are included at the end of the newsletter.** Please assist Amy and Sam by completing the planning notice on the bottom of the Activities Listing. **Mail it to 43rd Bomb Group Reunion 2008, Amy Nally, 2402 Creekside Trace, Jonesboro, GA 30236.** Do it now! It is an assessment of interest, not a commitment. They need planning information.
9. Frank Drab reported the services, instruments and assistance available from the Veterans Administration, Lighthouse and Blinded Veterans Association.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The 63rd Squadron reported the election of Jim Dieffenderfer as a Board Director to 1/2011.
2. The 64th Squadron reported the election of Charles McClenny as a Board Director to 1/2011.
3. The 65th Squadron reported the re-election of L.C. "Chalky" White for a 3 year term (1/2011) and the election of James Eide to finish the 1 year left on Bud Lawson's term.

4. President Cherkauer submitted the following men as candidates for the respective offices shown. Terms of office are one year in each case.

President - James Thompson, Jr.

Vice President - Eldon "Bud" Lawson

Secretary - Edward L. Gammill

Treasurer - William H. Wilson, Jr.

Call for additional nominations from the floor was made and there were none. Hearing no further nominations, the Chair declared the slate elected by acclamation.

The meeting was closed with an excellent presentation by Fred Hagen. Fred told of his first reunion in 1995 and of his search, recovery and restoration of aircraft from WWII.

The Philadelphia/Valley Forge reunion was one of the most enjoyable. Ann Fletcher, Jim Dieffenderfer, Fred Hagen and Suzanne Crain planned and provided an excellent series of activities. The Doubletree Guest Suites facilities, rooms, service and personnel were excellent. Your editor can personally vouch for the "Watering Hole" where we passed some good times.

Activities: 1-Monday-Fred Hagen's Farm, 2-Gettysburg Tour (lunch with President Lincoln), 3-Amish Tour with lunch at an Amish home/farm and later that evening dinner at the William Penn Inn which was the first gathering of all attendees. 4-Philadelphia Tour, during which we visited a church/lecture while setting in the same pews many the founding fathers & families had used. The pastor of the church, who was the lecturer, pointed to several attendees and told them who had occupied that specific seat. We roamed Independence Square, Independence Hall, Liberty Bell Building and the NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER. Topped off the day with dinner at the Union League a very impressive building and a club with much history. 5-The Reception Dinner at the Doubletree Guest Suites started with presentations to Ann, Jim and Fred for a reunion well done, a Joe Snyder cane to Bud Lawson and a Jim Thompson cane to Joe Snyder. A surprise visit by President George Washington! He told of his times and customs, even demonstrated a period dance routine with Ann Fletcher. After he departed there was dancing, music and attempts at singing. The group effort at Waltzing Matilda was rather weak until Leland Louchrey, Nancy Solomon's brother, sang the complete song solo. 6-The Valley Forge National Historical Park guided tour revealed continuing restoration efforts and the maintaining of original buildings. The objective is to restore all sites to be as near actual, as they were in 1777. Our guide was very good at pointing out interesting monuments, buildings and statues with interesting stories. One building was a high point, the Isaac Potts House which was General Washington's Headquarters during that winter. Our annual Memorial Service was held in the Washington Memorial Chapel. Details of this service is covered in MEMORIALS. The high point of the evening dinner was Waltzing Matilda by Leland Louchrey with definitions of the Aussie terms. 7-Sunday-farewell buffet brunch, departures and promises to meet next year ended most of our activities, but some attendees did remained for additional Philadelphia sight seeing.

Attending the reunion and listed by squadron (including guest) were:

63rd Squadron

Debbie Anderson
Lloyd Anderson
Pete Anderson
Jo Bachi
Bob Butler
Gregg Bulter
Dorothy Crawford
Ray Crawford
Audrey Diefferderfer
Jimmie Diefferderfer
Ann Fletcher
Bob Fletcher
Ed Gammill
Helen Green
Sandy Hoeft
Fred Peters
Harold Newton
Patricia Newton
Jim Thompson
Louise Thompson
Arlene Langland
Francis Langland
Roland Fisher
Mark Fisher
Susan Fisher
Irma Fisher
Ashley Fisher
Vesma Puharte
Olsima Puharte
Chuck Rauch
Bob Richardson
Shirley Richardson
Fred Hagen
Rebecca Davis
Ed O'Brien
Ed O'Brien, Jr.
Sandy Hoeft
Kathie Lukowski
Lindsey Lukowski
Tyler Lukowski
Richard Wassell
Jim Quinn

64th Squadron

Howard K. Anderson
Anne Anderson
Jane Burnett
Russell Burnett
Jesse Fulton
Lyle Heineke
Daniel Grubb
Ralph Grubb
Alvin Haas
Lorraine Ross
Agnes Jancosko
Joseph Jancosko
Wendell Jones
Bob Cooper
Audrey Kettleson
Roger Kettleson
Emil Lange
Shiley Lange
Mac McClenny
Mildred McClenny
Garrett Minnick
Mary Minnick
Jack Nunnellee
Jim Rodella
Boots Rodella
Joyce Rodella
Ed Ross
Hazel Taff
Frank Waysse
Lynn Waysse
June Panther
Mary Furrie
Arvid Houghlum
Gerry Houghlum
Michael Mitchell
Sally Jo Mitchell

65th Squadron

Dick Bennett
Anita Cherkauer
Jim Cherkauer
Jim Harcrow
Robert Harcrow
Bud Lawson
Betty Marsaglia
Don Marsaglia
Mary Myles
William Myles
Amy Nally
Steve Nally
Chalky White
Rosemary White
Sam Commons
Matthew Commons
Rachel Chebeleu
Radu Chebeleu
James Eide
Steve Eide
Victoria Calder
Harold Buelow
Marge Buelow
Jill Kullmann
Charles Kullmann
Terry Nelson

403rd Squadron

Frank Drab
Peg Drab
Bob Mangan
George O. Anderson
Joe Snyder
Sally Snyder
John Crosby
Bill Solomon
Nancy Solomon
Leland Louchrey
Charlotte Louchrey
George Stahl
Kay Sullivan
Roger Sullivan
Rick Lloyd
Richard Hughes
Carolyn Hughes
Neil Fairbanks
Marlys Fairbanks

HDQRS

Betty Bavor
Gordon Bavor
John O'Hara
Merely O'Hara

Squadron Unknown

Bill Home

The list was compiled from Ann's and Jim's records and from the Registration Table Listing, which may have been incomplete. If there are errors or omissions in the above, I apologize.

*****EDITOR'S and MEMBER'S REPORTS*****

"The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." Thomas Jefferson

June 2, I received the following letter from **Sue Siegel**, widow of **Forrest C. Siegel, 65th Squadron, Flight Engineer**:

"I am writing on behalf of my husband, T/Sgt. Forrest C. Siegel, Jr. 12035418. He read and enjoyed your newsletters, although he never saw the name of anyone ever flew with.

Forrest stood in line for 14 hours to enlist Dec. 8th 1941 in Little Falls, NY. After training and schooling in West Lynn, Mass., he went, by convoy, to Australia in July 1942. He was at Townsville, Australia building hangers for the 4th Air Depot Group, when he was transferred to the 65th Sqdn., 43rd BG on August 7, 1943 at Dobodura, New Guinea, where he flew 303:15 combat hours.

A good deal of the time he was in "The Atom Smasher" plane, one of 2 radar planes in the South Pacific. He was 1st Engineer with a T/Sgt. rating. During these flights, he was a top turret gunner in a Martin turret on B24 and a Sperry turret on a B17.

His last hours, over there, were with the 530th Sqdn., 380 Bomb Group out of Darwin under the Royal Australian Air Command. He got his orders at Darwin to come home 10-13-44.

After leave of about 2 months, he went to George Field, Ill where they pulled gliders. He was mustered out of service in July 1945.

We had been married in Jan of 1945 and after a short break he went back to finish as an apprentice in tool making. He worked all his working days as a tool maker and a tool room superintendent. We were married 62 years when he died last Dec. 16, 2006.

He was a life member of your association, but he never knew who gave him that generous gift. He was very pleased and we would like to say thank you to whoever gave it to him." Sincerely *D. Sue Siegel*

A new member, **Leonard Schwobel, 64th Squadron, Radio/Radar Gunner**, was a member of **Captain Kaplan's** crew. He flew a 44 missions (7 with the 19th BG) from May through November 1943 as a member of the 43rd. He and his wife **Carole** live in Texas. Their address is 448 Brookview Drive, Hurst, TX 76054 and the phone number is (817) 282-5348.

Steve Meinke has become an Associate Member. Steve is the nephew of the late **Charles G. Meinke, 63rd Squadron, Radio/Gunner**. Steve's address is 599 Ogden Avenue, Apt F, Lisle, IL 60532-1952 and phone (630) 769-1165. Steve wants

to obtain information of his uncles' activities during WWII. You 63rd guys help Steve.

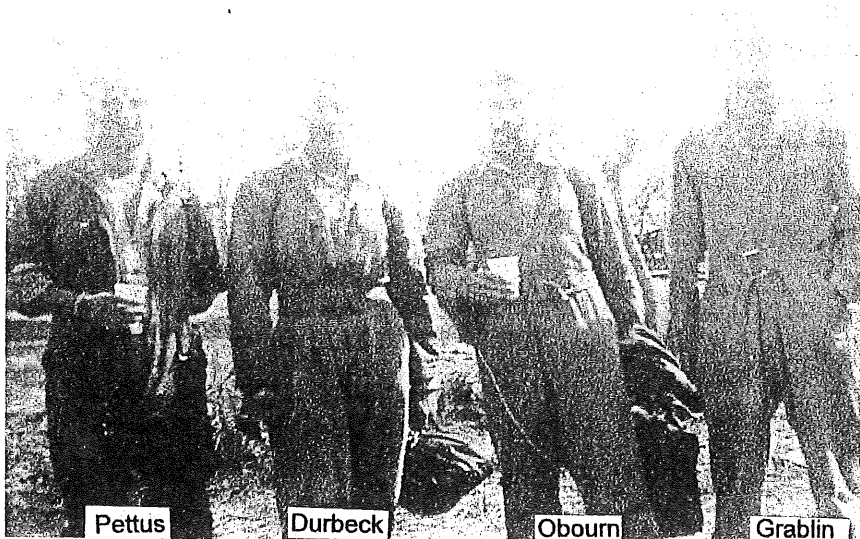
Malcolm Obourn, 403rd Squadron, Navigator, sent his dues to **Bill Wilson, 43rd Treasurer** with the following: "Sorry if my dues are past due. I am going on 86 years and many things don't seem to get done on time.

I joined the 403rd in March of 1943 as a replacement navigator on the **Jim Smyth** crew. They were near the end of their tour and they returned to the states.

I then flew from October 14, 1943 thru January 16th, 1944 with **Major Downer's** crew. Then with **Major Pettus and Captain Durbeck** until I finished my tour February 6, 1944 and returned to the states. I have never been able to establish if this is the same Jim Pettus as the manuscript Pettus. Is the complete manuscript available?

Enclosed is a picture of (L-R) **Pettus, Durbeck, Obourn and Grablin** after a mission in January 1944.

Best Wishes, *Malcolm R. Obourn*



A self proclaimed "Liberator-a-holic, Military Enthusiast" and Secretary **Veleria L. Chambers** has become a new Associate Member. Veleria wishes to find out about and learn what the "Pacific Liberator crews did as compared to their 8th and 15th AAF cousins. Also interested about life in the Pacific Theater." Veleria's address is 1098 Rydale Road, Dayton, OH 45405-1510

Col. Charles H. Pierce USAF (Ret) is a new member of the Association. Charles was a B-29 era (1947-1949) **64th Squadron, Pilot** and was the squadron Commanding Officer while stationed in Tucson, AZ. He retired in 1970 and now lives in California. His address is 31206 Flying Cloud Drive, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677-2716 and phone (949) 496-6239. Charles, we hope you will spread the word to some of your B-29 men about the Association. **We need and welcome all Kensmen** to become members of the association.

Another beautiful story from our Kensmen web site. In April 2004 **Joseph Hickey** placed a request on our Message Board for information about his uncle, **Thomas J. Hickey, 63rd Squadron, Waist Gunner**. This resulted in my furnishing Joe with data about his uncle's activities in the 63rd Squadron.

In August 2007, I renewed my correspondence with Joe. I offered him ten additional pages of the 63rd Combat Diary that I had just received. It was excellent timing, for Joe had just received some 63rd Squadron data from an Australian lady. Quoted from her letter, "I was recently helping my mother-in-law tidy up cupboards and drawers of items she has collected over the years. In doing so I came across a case of papers belonging to her father who had passed away before I had met her son." Joe has sent these data to me, I will review, copy and place a package in the memorabilia room at the next reunion.

In response to a story in the July Newsletter, **Bill Solomon** writes. "In regard to **Joyce Milton's** e-mail message about her father, **J. Kent Milton**, holding "Solomon's poker winnings," I remember the incident quite well. While Kent and I were on different crews, we were good friends. On August 21, 1944 about 200 airmen, from various units, boarded the **U.S.A.T Cape Flattery** at Finschafen, N. G. for rotation back to the USA. The Flattery was to leave port the next day. Meanwhile, we were told that as soon as it got dark, there would be a movie on the forward deck. The feature was "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" starring Jimmy Stewart. I decided that I had time to go below deck and get a saltwater shower, so I asked Kent to hold my wallet until I got back. The wallet had about 4 to 5 months of back-pay---I DO NOT GAMBLE. By the time I got back on deck, it was dark and the movie had started. So I found a place to squat. About halfway through the movie, there was a terrific explosion and the ship shook violently. There was mass exodus to get off the ship, which meant that to do so, we had to cross over another ship to get to the dock. I learned later that a midget 2 man Japanese sub had followed one of our ships through the mined channel and slammed into a fully loaded ammo ship docked behind ours. A good many of us were on the dock trying to find out what had happened. In a very short time, a seaman from the ship next to ours appeared with a fire axe and started to chop away at the 4 inch ropes holding his ship to the dock. He yelled to us, with some profanity, that we had better get back on our ship if we wanted to get back to the states. So there was another mad rush to board his ship and get over to ours. I no sooner had crossed the short gang plank between the two ships, when the Cape Flattery started to move away and move into the middle of the harbor where we stopped and waited for the harbor pilot to come aboard and guide us through the mined channel. Out in the open sea, roll call was taken and we learned that about 30 of our men, including Kent Milton, were not on board. I did find **Bob Roth** who was on

my crew. The Cape Flattery had a Navy gun crew and some depth charges to defend itself. In addition, we were told that there would be some Navy destroyers in the general area, but I didn't see any. Fortunately, our 20 day voyage was uneventful, but we were concerned about the fate of our missing comrades. At no time, did I worry about my money. To me, life is far more important. Nevertheless, the second day we were on Angel Island undergoing physical exams and paperwork, a group of men, in new Khaki uniforms, carrying little green bags of toilet articles, showed up. They had been put aboard a ship that left Finschafen a day or so after us, but was faster than ours. Among the group, was Kent Milton. He still had my wallet. He yelled over to me, "I'll bet you were worried about your money." I yelled back "Hell no, I was worried about you." I don't think he believed me. At any rate, Kent Milton is one honest man.

The July Newsletter brought back a lot of memories. Hope to see you at the Philly Reunion." Best Regards, *Bill Solomon*, 403rd Sqdn.

An August 2, 2007 letter:

Dear Mr. Cherkauer,

It is with great interest that I read the 43rd is coming East to the Valley Forge area for their 2007 Reunion. **Herb** and I attended several reunions and enjoyed them very much. He was very proud of his affiliation with the 43rd Group and the 403rd Squadron. He would have been pleased to have you meet here.

The Valley Forge area and neighboring counties have much to offer in history and beauty. Your committee has planned a very interesting and diversified schedule and should be commended for their hard work.

I wish you a very successful reunion and enjoyable visit to this area.

Sincerely, *Mildred M. Andress*, 444 Wellington Rd., West Chester, PA 19380

Thank you Mildred, the area and services were as you stated. A great reunion!

*****MEMORIALS*****

An e-mail from **Max Axelsen** reports the passing of **Dayton Blanchard, 65th Squadron Pilot** on 19 July, 2007. Dayton's wife, **Ann** ask her 43rd friends to respect her wishes for no calls, cards, etc. Max will attend services in behalf of the Group.

To Mr. R. James Cherkauer, Pres., and members of the 43rd Bomb Group. Your lovely card and words of sympathy were very much appreciated. My wonderful husband was such a kind and loving man. And I will miss him so very much. I will miss attending the splendid reunions, and visiting with a very special group of people.

Thank you again, *Ann Blanchard and Family*

A note from **Christine Riefenberg, wife of Charles L. Riefenberg, 65th Squadron, Flight Chief** reports Charles passed away 18 June 2005. She closed her

letter with—"I am sorry I didn't write sooner, but I have been sick in and out of the hospital. We were married 65 years, wonderful years." *Christine Riefenberg*

A note via e-mail from **Jo-Anne Grew, daughter of Joseph Heuston, 65th Squadron, Flight Engineer**, reports his death 2 Nov 2006. Her message included: "He enjoyed the Newsletter and had been patiently awaiting the book about the years in the South Pacific. He didn't wait long enough, but I'm sure he is happier as he has joined my Mother who he missed terribly and never really got over her passing.

Please thank all in the organization for their efforts in the Newsletter and for keeping the memories of soldiers who risked their lives for us."

Thanks to All, Yours, *Jo-Anne Grew, daughter*

An August 7, 2007 e-mail "43rd Bomb Group Association"

"I am saddened to report the passing of **William E. Burns, 403rd Squadron Bombardier**. He is survived by his widow Oggletta, two daughters, four grandsons, two great grandchildren and one great, great grandchild.

I served as a Navigator with Bill on **Jack Miniere's** crew."

Respectfully, *Abraham (Shorty) Hellman*

A letter from **David Adams, 403rd Squadron, Pilot**: "I have just received word that **Col. Mitch Cobeaga** passed away Jan. 22, 2007. He was my pilot out of Hawaii. We joined the 19th in Australia. Part of the 28th Sq., then the 435th before joining the 403rd of the 43rd Bomb Group. Mitch was not a member of the Association, but a lot of people would remember him.

I was reading the last newsletter, info on **Jay Zeamer**, about the mission on June 16, 1943. As you will remember this was a voluntary mission. I was offered this mission first, because I had been to Buka before. I turned down the mission for the safety of my crew.

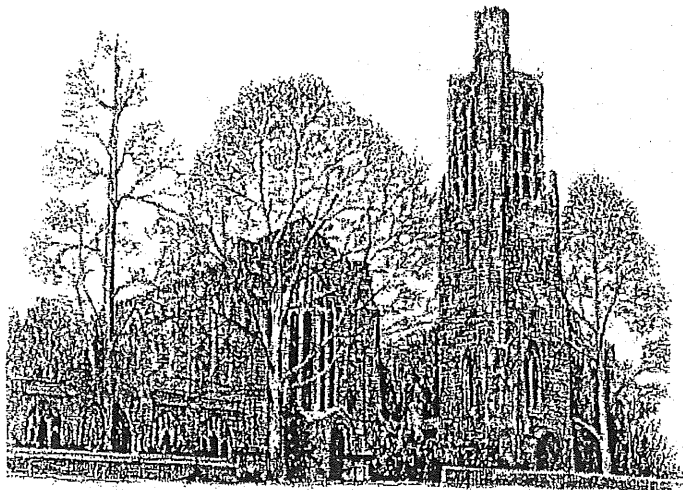
You tell about "HERE TIS." I believe I help name this plane. I picked it up and brought it to Port Moresby. I always said if I had a dog, I would name it "Tis." When you call him "Here Tis."

You might let **Roger Kettleson** know about Mitch, for I believe they both come from Las Vegas. Give my best to all at the reunion.

David A. Adams

Our 2007 **Memorial Service** was held in a very special place, the Washington Memorial Chapel. Prior to entering the Chapel, a deli-lunch was provided by the ladies of the church at Freedom's Foundation.

43rd Bomb Group of World War II Memorial Service



About the Chapel

Washington Memorial Chapel was built as a tribute to George Washington, in 1903, for his faith and dedication to our country's independence. The Chapel offers many significant points of historical and religious interest. Below are a few of the highlights.

The Organ contains over 3,100 pipes, ranging from a few inches to over sixteen feet tall. The Carillon contains fifty-eight bells. Each bell represents the fifty states, U.S. Territories, DC and the National Birthday Bell. The bells were assigned, by size, in 1920 according to the states' and the Territories' population. A Carillonneur plays the bells from the clavier, high in the tower, using feet and clenched fists. The Altar Cross was given by a member of the Lincoln family in honor of Abraham Lincoln. The hand-carved wooden cross is adorned with small, ivory carved statues of the four

Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,

Over the Altar is the Martha Washington Window. Each of the five panels represents the three Marys bearing the message of our Lord's Nativity, 'Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The bottom, far right panel is a picture of the Lord holding a model of this chapel.

The Choir stalls, designed by Edward Maene, are hand-carved oak standing nineteen feet tall. Each stall commemorates a brigade illustrated by the different soldier's uniforms. The Ceiling is called the Roof of the Republic and bears hand-carved, individual state seals, placed in the order states were entered in the union. Keys to the seals are found in bronze plaques embedded in the floor of the central aisle. The ceiling over the choir stalls are reproductions of the Revolutionary period flags.

The Chapel pews are called the Pew of the Patriots. Each pew commemorates a patriot or group of patriots. The first pew (left, front) is known as the President's Pew in memory of George Washington and James Monroe who were both at Valley Forge prior to each becoming President.

Above the Chapel door entrance is the George Washington window containing thirty-six scenes depicting his life, from baptism to Mount Vernon. The center scene depicts Washington in prayer at Valley Forge.

*September 8, 2007
Two O'clock in the Afternoon
Washington Memorial Chapel
Valley Forge, Pennsylvania*

The Reverend Parnard L. Maguire, III; 43rd Bomb Group Chaplain Roland Fisher; Mark Fisher; Organist Dr. Michael Diorio, MusAD; Bugler Ed Bilger; Soloist Nancy Solomon and Readers Jim Dieffenderfer, Jim Cherkauer, Sam Commons, Ed Gammill, Arvid Houghlum and Joe Snyder participated in the Memorial Service.

During the preliminaries of worship, which were in accord with the ritual of the church, Jim Dieffenderfer, Jim Cherkauer and Sam Commons read selected passages from the Bible and Reverend Maquire welcomed the 43rd Bomb Group.

Chaplain Fisher gave a brief message and introduced his son Mark who read Roland's 2007 Tribute.

Valley Forge

Valley Forge: Christmas, 1776. The very mention of those words evokes deep appreciation of a brilliant, determined leader and a small band of young men. These few, finally, after repeated failures, against enormous obstacles, and in spite of an enemy of superior forces, gave to us an immense gift. In their time, this gift was to their contemporaries. But as it turned out, it also was to the millions of Americans who followed them to this day. So, our appreciation of them should include deep gratitude. For in effect that leader, with his young men, gave to us all-- our country.

Hundreds of books and thousands of words have been written of the events at Valley Forge. Artists have portrayed in paint and pencil, dramatic views of men locked in struggles with a harsh winter, with lack of the most fundamental necessities, facing a vastly superior British military. This has elevated events at Valley Forge to near mythic proportions through addition of romantic and fictitious incidents. Yet, even after stripping away prejudices and falsehoods, we are left with an awe-inspiring story of suffering and sacrifice, and then--after a series of deadly losses to the British-- a key victory during that horrible, pivotal winter.

For sheer drama, it is unmatched. General Washington, with huge audacity, personally lead his skimpy army with horses and cannon, at night, across the ice-filled Delaware, surprised the professional Hessian army and killed or captured more than 1000 of the 1500 Hessians including their commander. The Americans, having been on their feet all night, wet, cold, their weapons soaked, charged the town fiercely. The Hessians rolled out a field gun. A half dozen Americans rushed up, seized it, and turned it back on the Hessian soldiers clearing the main streets. The Hessians took to the side streets and the Americans charged them with fixed bayonets. For a brief time a thousand or more Hessians and Americans were locked in savage house-to-house fighting. The action happened extremely fast, in confusing noise and swirling snow, made more blinding by clouds of gun smoke. Colonel Rail, the Hessian commander, mounted his horse in the midst of the fray and ordered a charge. His men were being hit all around him and did not comply. Then Rail was shot from his horse. The Hessians faltered and pulled back to an orchard. The Americans surrounded them. The Hessians lay down their arms and surrendered.

It all happened in less than 45 minutes. Twenty-one Hessians were killed, 90 wounded. About 900 surrendered and 500 escaped, leaving their cannon, powder, hand weapons and other stores. Incredibly, not one American died and only four were wounded. A most valuable supply of weapons, horses, warm clothing and other essentials was provided for those exhausted young soldiers who had been near destitute. It was a savage battle. The Americans had fought fiercely as if all of history had depended on them. In fact, unknown to them at that moment, it had. For the American Revolution was close to failing. Discouragement permeated the population. And those young men changed that.

But more important, the night crossing of the Delaware and the action at Trenton were seen as a great turning point. The last months of 1776 had been as dark a time as those devoted to the American cause had ever known---indeed as dark a time as any in the history of the country. With the Trenton triumph, came a realization that Americans had bested the enemy, bested the fearsome Hessian professionals, outsmarted them, outfought them and might very well do it again. After enduring mostly British victories to that point, Trenton was the first great cause for hope to continue American independence.

The records show that these soldiers were not the same yeoman farmers who fought at Lexington and Concord in 1775. If asked, George Washington would likely have replied, "That was three armies ago." The heroes of Concord and Bunker Hill went home at the end of 1775. Their contract was up. Almost all the Valley

Forge army were young, many in their teens, with not much wealth, few of them married, responsible mostly for just themselves. That fateful night that small band of young men, those determined teenagers, wearing the full mantle of adult responsibility under the leadership of an equally determined Washington, demonstrated the value of individual freedom that changed the whole world for centuries. A century later, George Trevelyan would write in a classic study of the American Revolution, "It may be doubted whether so small a number of men ever employed so short a space of time with greater and more lasting effects upon the history of the world."

Though it did not win the war, or even stop it, the energetic capture of Trenton at so unexpected a moment brought on instantaneous change in the attitudes of the dispirited Americans. From a state of mind bordering on despair, courage bloomed, every ones outlook brightened. The war was far from over. Washington spent another two years at Valley Forge, fighting many battles. King George III, and his parliament denounced the "rebels" and sent additional forces to America. The war would continue, it seemed, forever. It would be another six and a half years before the Treaty of Paris ending the conflict was signed in 1783. After eight years of sustained hardship, suffering, fear and terrible discouragement, but also years of phenomenal courage and devotion to an ideal, we finally were a country.

It was a small country; a loose confederation of thirteen parcels of land south of Canada, north of Spanish Florida and west from the Atlantic to the Appalachians. But it had an energetic, American spirit which was-- to do things. Especially important among these was trade with other nations using a fleet of outstanding sailing vessels. That American spirit, with the far seeing vision of a handful of truly great men, drew the thirteen independent states together into a structured union under principles written into a document unlike any the world had ever seen, our Constitution. Now we were not just a country---we were a nation. And with national purpose we began to grow.

Thus began a part of our history that holds one of the most moving stories we may ever hear--- how our national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner came to be written. British parliament and King George III did not like the obvious success of our new nation. He had never fully accepted the departure of what he termed, "my treasonous subjects who have renounced all allegiance to the crown". He said all Americans had a duty to him. The success of the Americans in world trade infuriated him and he commenced a campaign of seizing American ships and impressing their sailors to prevent their trading with Europe. This did not bear well with the Yankee traders so in 1812 the US declared war on Britain. Fighting was mostly in North America. We had better seamen and won many initial battles. Commodore Perry defeated the British on Lake Erie. But the British had far more ships and wore down our navy. Then they started a land campaign.

Britain launched a three-pronged attack, from the north, down toward New York--up from the south to take New Orleans---and from the Atlantic coast to take Baltimore which then was our largest port. If they took Baltimore, they would split our small nation. So our fate pretty much rested on the success or failure of the central prong. On August 24, 1814, the British burned The White House and The Capitol in Washington, D.C. then sailed up the bay toward Baltimore. On September 12, they came to Fort McHenry which had many big guns and 1000 men. To take Baltimore the British would have to take the fort. On one of the British ships was an aged physician, William Beanes, who had been arrested in Maryland and kept as a prisoner. Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and close friend of the old doctor, had come to the British ship to negotiate his release. The British commander was willing to negotiate but said the two Americans would have to wait aboard ship. It was the night of September 13, and the bombardment of Fort McHenry was about to begin.

As twilight deepened, from the ship Key and Beanes saw the American flag flying over the fort. Throughout the night they saw the red glare of rockets and heard bombs bursting. They knew the fort was resisting and our flag was still flying. Then toward morning a dread silence fell. Either the fort had surrendered

and the British flag flew over it, or the attack had failed and the American flag still flew. As dawn brightened the sky, Key and Beanes peered out trying to see which flag flew over the fort. They must have asked each other, over and over, "Can you see-can you see the flag?"

In the dawn's early light, they saw that Star Spangled Banner. When it was all over, Key wrote a four-stanza poem telling the events of the night. Called, "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it was published in newspapers and it swept the nation. The words fit an old tune, a melody with an uncomfortable vocal range-hard for most of us to sing. In time it became known as "The Star Spangled Banner," and in 1931 Congress declared it the official anthem of The United States.

Now that you know the story let's go back to Scott Key's magnificent words. Nearly everyone knows the first stanza: It describes the battle through that long night. And it asks the question that dominated Key's and Beanes' moments,

"Oh! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free-and the home of the brave?"

That stanza asks the question. The second one gives the answer:

On the shore, dimly seen thru' the mist of the deep
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that- which the breeze, o'er the towering steep--
As it fitfully blows-- half conceals--half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam-
In full glory reflected-- now shines on the stream-
'Tis the Star-spangled Banner! Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

The attack by the British has failed. They can do nothing more but sail away, their mission unsuccessful. Here, Key likely allows himself to gloat over the American triumph. And in the third stanza he disdains the British effort and writes scornfully of their effort to subjugate America, again,

And where is that band who so 'boastfully' swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, 'nor' the gloom of the grave.
And the Star-spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

The fourth stanza is both, an acknowledgment of the precious gift to us from those who made history at Valley Forge and, at once, a pious hope for the future. And it most eloquently explains the compelling reason for the service and sacrifice of those who have served America's cause for freedom--all of them. Listen to it--carefully.

Oh! thus be it ever, when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may this heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, for our cause is just,
And this be our motto-"In GOD is our trust."
And the Star-spangled Banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

To those brave young men at Valley Forge whose actions gave us our country--to those brave young men of the 43rd whom we know now only as a memory--to all Americans who, feeling the spirit of Key's words, stood tall as free men, we are deeply grateful.

ROLAND T. FISHER--63rd BOMB SQUADRON--- 43rd BOMB GROUP-5th AIR FORCE August 19, 2007

A representative, from each squadron, honored those who have left us since our last reunion by reading their names, which are:

63 rd Squadron	64 th Squardon	65 th Squadron	403 rd Squadron
✓ Chester Bialicki	✓ Paul Barbus	✓ Dayton Blanchard	✓ William E. Burns
✓ Nuncio J. Bonino	✓ Henry H. Day	✓ Joseph Heuston	✓ Mitch Cobeage
✓ Leonard O. Bowen	✓ Wallace A. Gettman	✓ Rebecca Holquin	✓ Dudley R. Ives
✓ Bertha Burhoe	✓ William L. Jobe	Jose's wife	Returned MIA
George's wife	✓ Bernice Jobe	✗ James T. O'Brien	✓ Betty Jack
✗ Eric Leighman	William's wife	✓ Charles Riefenberg	Jean's wife
✗ Harold McNabb	✓ Burle Miller	✓ Claude Sachae	✓ Jean Jack
✓ Helen Miklos,	✓ Richard L. Patton	✓ Norma Stueland	✓ Joseph M. King
Louis's wife	✓ George Tucholski	Edwin's wife	Returned MIA
✓ Pat Rauch,	✗ Bernard Wallin	✓ Robert E. Thompson	✓ Arlen Roth
Chuck's wife	✗ Howard Yeager	✓ James H. Warren	Robert's wife
✗ Morten Sosemski	✓ Ever F. Perkins, Jr.	✓ James D. Williams	
✓ Albert Webber	✓ Lillian Ross	✓ Jay Zeamer-Medal	
✓ Martha Zimmerman,	Edward's Wife	of Honor Recipient	
Kent's wife			HDQRS
			✓ Edmond Kiselica

✗ 2 NOT MEMBERS

Taps by Ed Bilger with Nancy Solomon singing the words. Nancy then sang Amazing Grace and Reverend Maguire completed the closing ritual. It was a very emotional Memorial Service.

*****43rd HUMOR*****

From **Nick Arabinko** for dog owners

My neighbor found out her dog could hardly hear so she took it to the veterinarian. He found that the problem was hair in its ears. He cleaned both ears and the dog could hear fine.

The vet then proceeded to tell the lady that if she wanted to keep this from reoccurring she should go th the store and get some "Nair" hair remover and rub int in the dog's ears once a month.

The lady goes to the drug store and purchases "Nair" hair remover. At the register the druggist tells her, if you're going to ;use this under your arms don't use deodorant for a few days." The lady says: "I'm not using it under my arms." The druggist says "If you're using it on your legs don't shave for a couple of days."

The lady says "I'm hot using it on my legs either ; if you must know, I'm using on my schnauzer." The druggist says: "Stay off your bicycle for a week!"

From **Jim Thompson** for all of us older folks

An old prospector walk's his tired old mule into his western town one day. He'd been out in the desert for about six months without a drop of whiskey. He walked up to the first saloon he came to and tied his mule to the hitching rail. As he stood there brushing some of the dust from his face and clothes a gunslinger walked out of the saloon. He had a gun in one hand and bottle of whiskey in the other hand. He looked at the old man and laughed. Then said "Hey, old man have you eve danced?" The old man looked up at him and said "No young feller. I never did dance. **I just never did want to.**"

A crowd had gathered by then and the gunslinger said "Well you old fool you're gonna dance now" and he started shooting at the old man's feet. The old man was hopping around and every body was laughing. He fired his last bullet, holstered his gun and turned to go into the saloon.

The old man reached up, on the mule, removed his shotgun. He pulled the hammers back making a well known clicking sound! The gunslinger turned and was looking down both barrels! The old man asked him "Did you ever kiss a mule right on the ass?" The gunslinger swallowed and said "**NO, BUT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO!**"

From **SMOKIE ONE** (Roland Fisher)

A nun walks into Mother Superior's office and plunks down int a chair. She lets out a sigh heavy in frustration. "What troubles you, Sister?" asks the Mother Superior. I thought this was the day you spent with your family."

"It was," sighed the Sister. "And I went to play golf with my brother. We try to play golf as often as we can. You know I was quite a talented golfer before I devoted my life to Christ."

"I seem to recall that," the Mother Superior agreed. "So I take it your day of recreation was not relaxing?" "Far from it," snorted the Sister. In fact, I even took the Lord's name in vain today!"

"Goodness, Sister!" gasped the Mother Superior, astonished. "You must tell me all about it!"

"Well, we were on the fifth tee...and this hole is a monster, Mother - I'm talking about a 560 yard Par 5, with a nasty dogleg and a hidden green with a creek in front and right side...and I hit the drive of my life. I creamed it. The sweetest swing I ever made. And it's flying straight and true, right along the line I wanted...and it hits a bird in mid-flight not 100 yards off the tee!"

"Oh my goodness!" commiserated the Mother Superior. "How unfortunate! But surely that didn't make you blaspheme, Sister!" "No, that wasn't it," admitted the Sister. While I was still trying to fathom what had happened, this squirrel runs out of the woods, grabs my ball and runs off down the fairway!"

"Oh, That would have made me blasphemel!" sympathized Mother Superior.

"But I didn't!" sobbed the Sister. "And I was so proud of myself! And while I was pondering whether this was a sign from God, this hawk swoops out of the sky and grabs the squirrel and flies off, with my ball still in his little paws!" "So that's when you cursed," said the Mother with a knowing smile.

"Nope, that wasn't it either," cried the Sister, anguished, "because as the hawk started to fly out of sight, the squirrel started struggling, and the hawk dropped him right there on the green, and the ball popped out of his paws and rolled to about 18 inches from the cup!"

The Mother Superior sat back in her chair, folded her arms across her chest, fixed the Sister with a baleful stare and said. "You missed that x#&@:(put, didn't you?"

This newsletter is published four times a year - **January, April, July and October**. Please pay your annual dues to our **Treasurer, William H. Wilson, Jr. C/O Elian Pierce at 1101 E. Coliseum Dr., P.O. Box 360, Snyder, TX 79550-0360**. It is most important that C/O Elian Pierce is on the envelope. Please keep in mind that annual dues are **\$20.00 per year** and life membership is **\$100.00**. Please make the check to the **43rd Bomb Group Association**.

Send items for the Newsletter to **Ed Gammill** at **5415 E. Osborn Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85018-6106** or via e-mail to **Edgammill@aol.com**. Any material receive after the 15th of the month prior to a publication month probably will not appear in that publication.

The Postal Service **will not forward** this newsletter. If you change your address **please notify** our **43rd Elf, Elain Pierce**, at the address shown above. Send her all changes of phone numbers, etc. also.

*****PETTUS MANUSCRIPT*****

Due to the length of this Newsletter, the next issue of the Pettus Manuscript will be in the January 2008 Newsletter.

*****REUNION INFORMATION ENCLOSURE*****

These enclosures will assist you in planning for the Reunion.

1-Brochure of Events and Atlanta

2-Activity List and Planning Document

It is important that you mail the planning information to **43rd Bomb Group Reunion 2008, Amy Nally, 2402 Creekside Trace, Jonesboro, GA 30236**

The 43rd Bomb Group – Atlanta Reunion 2008

Planned Reunion Activities at- a- Glance

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

- 3 PM : Reunion Registration Desk opens for early arrivals
3 – 6PM : Memorabilia Room set-up; afternoon & dinner on own at leisure
7 - 10PM: **BOARD MEETING**

Thursday, September 18, 2008

- 6AM – 9AM: Breakfast at hotel or nearby restaurants on own at leisure
9AM – 4PM: **GOLF OUTING** or “**ATLANTA’S PAST**” **tour** offsite (Optional)
5PM – 6PM: **WELCOME RECEPTION**, followed by dinner on own
7:30 - 10 PM: **SQUADRON MEETING & LADIES/GUEST PROGRAM**

Friday, September 19, 2008

- 6AM – 9AM: Breakfast Buffet at hotel
9AM – 11AM: **GENERAL MEETING**
11AM – 4:30PM: “**ATLANTA’S FUTURE**” **tour** offsite (Optional)
6PM – 10PM: **SOUTHERN BUFFET DINNER**

Saturday, September 20, 2008

- 6AM – 9AM: Breakfast Buffet at hotel
9AM – 3:30PM: “**ATLANTA TODAY**” **tour** offsite (Optional)
5PM – 6PM: **PHOTO SESSION** and **COCKTAIL HOUR**
6PM – 11PM: **DINNER BANQUET**

Sunday, September 21, 2008

- 8AM – 9AM: **MEMORIAL SERVICE**
9AM – 11AM: **FAREWELL BREAKFAST**
11AM – 12N: Check-Out and Departures

-----Clip and Detach Here -----Clip and Detach Here -----

YOUR ATLANTA REUNION PLANNERS NEED YOUR INPUT –

Please help us by completing the information below & drop it in the “ATLANTA REUNION BOX” by 10 AM on Sunday, Sept. 9th. Thanks!

NAME(S): _____

☐ **YES, I/we plan to attend the Atlanta Reunion.**

(If YES, Please answer the following questions):

1. I/we are interested in these optional tour(s) *(Please check all that apply):*

- ☐ ATLANTA’S PAST (Thursday, 9/18/07 – Approx. \$85 per person w/Lunch)
☐ ATLANTA’S FUTURE (Friday, 9/19/07 – Approx. \$45 per person, no Lunch)
 OPTION (select 1) : _____ Georgia Aquarium **OR** _____ World of Coke
☐ ATLANTA TODAY (Saturday, 9/20/07 – Approx. \$66 per person w/Lunch)

2. I /we would prefer these banquet entrée choices *(Please select 2):*

_____ Chicken _____ Beef _____ Fish _____ Vegetarian

☐ **NO, I/we do not plan to attend.**

Thanks for your help & hope to see you in Atlanta in 2008!



Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport

Ken's Men, their family and guests are cordially invited to take off for Atlanta, Georgia on September 17 to 21, 2008 for the annual 43rd Bomb Group Reunion. Please join us for a memorable visit to this historic city, and discover why Atlanta is called the "Capital of the South."

Accommodations:

Our base of operations for reunion activities will be the **Crowne Plaza Atlanta Airport**, which provides **free roundtrip shuttle service** to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, and easy access for those traveling to Atlanta via the interstate highway system. The Crowne Plaza features spacious meeting facilities, **luxurious new rooms, free parking and a morning breakfast buffet**. Our group has negotiated a special reunion rate of **\$110.00** plus applicable tax/per room per night. A full description of hotel amenities, photos and a video tour is available at www.ichotelsgroup.com.

OUR DESTINATION CITY

Atlanta, the capital of Georgia, has deep historic and cultural roots. Originally known as "Terminus", this vital railroad town was a strategic imperative for both the north and south during the civil war. Following a union victory in 1864, General George T. Sherman burned the old city to the ground, and used it to launch his infamous march to the sea, and later conquest of the port of Savannah. Atlanta survived and, like the mythical Phoenix, rose from the ashes of southern defeat. Today, Atlanta is a center for global business and corporate seat of many Fortune 500 companies, site of dozens of colleges and universities, and home of the world's busiest airport. The city is proud of its southern traditions, cultural diversity, modern accomplishments and "can do" approach.



We know you will enjoy our planned reunion in this delightful city, so "ya'll plan to come, hear?"

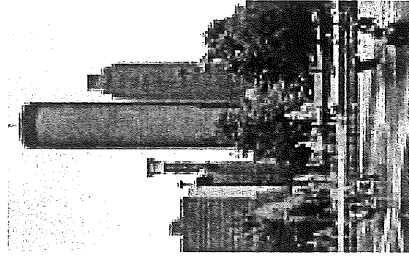
**Your reunion planners,
Sam Commons & daughter Amy
Nally**

The 43rd Bomb Group



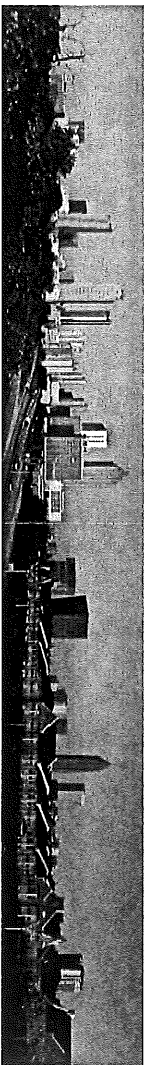
Mission: REUNION 2008

Destination: ATLANTA



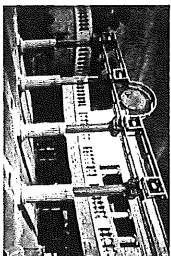
Sept. 17-21, 2008

Available Tours



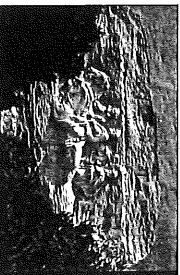
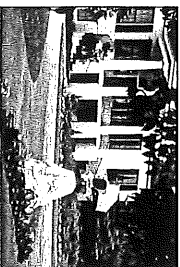
The 43rd Bomb Group

Optional Tour 1



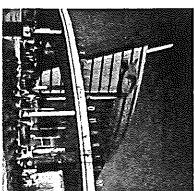
Atlanta's Past (Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008)

Step back in time to civil war days, southern belles and plantation life in Georgia. Visit **Atlanta's Cyclorama** exhibit in Grant Park to relive the **1864 Battle of Atlanta** and witness one of the determining events of the war between the states. Presented as a 3-dimensional experience featuring a panoramic painting, music and narration, this historic attraction captures a pivotal moment in our nation's history. Travel east to **Stone Mountain Park**, Atlanta's foremost outdoor recreation facility, for a **country lunch** and tour of the restored village and **Antebellum Plantation**, complete with main house, garden, kitchen and slave quarters. View the confederate memorial carving on the mountain itself, an ancient landmark and world's largest area of exposed granite. Approx. cost is **\$85 per person including lunch**.



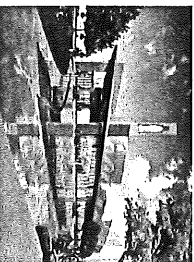
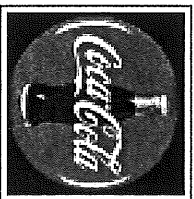
The 43rd Bomb Group

Optional Tour 2



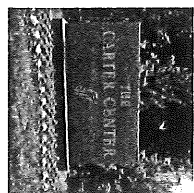
Atlanta's Future (Friday, Sept. 19, 2008)

Soar to downtown Atlanta's latest attractions, for a pre-selected tour of either of the city's new wonders, the **Georgia Aquarium** or the **World of Coca-Cola**. The world's **largest Aquarium** features over 100,000 animals from more than 500 species around the world, including beluga whales, pen-guins, otters and the famous whale sharks. Roam through the five unique galleries, and get lost in an undersea world 300 miles away from the ocean. Or choose the break that refreshes at the **World of Coke**, and try to discover the secret formula. This multimedia, state of the art attraction highlights the history of the world's favorite soft drink, and includes fun activities such as the old time soda shop, tasting room and museum of vintage coca-cola memorabilia. Approx. cost is **\$45 per person with lunch on own**.



The 43rd Bomb Group

Optional Tour 3



Atlanta Today (Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008)

All sights are set for a driving tour of major Atlanta points of interest. View many of the most popular tourist destinations including the **Martin Luther King Memorial**, **Turner Field**, the **State Capital**, **Underground Atlanta**, **CNN**, **Centennial Olympic Park**, the famous **Peachtree Street**, the **Margaret Mitchell House**, **Governor's Mansion**, **Buckhead**, the **CDC** and much more. **Lunch** at Atlanta's favorite spot for southern food, **Mary Mac's Tearoom**. Sweet tea, fried chicken, hush puppies and mint juleps are here for the tasting, so bring your appetite! Finally, tour the **Jimmy Carter Presidential Library** for an in-depth look at this Georgia native son. See a replica of the oval office, presidential gifts of state and stroll the Japanese garden for a fabulous city view. End the day with a stop in the museum shop for presidential insignia items and white house china reproductions. Approx. cost is **\$66 per person including lunch**.

