

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



## NEWSLETTER 107<sup>th</sup> EDITION JULY 2008

### PRESIDENT

**JIM THOMPSON**  
7018 E. CALLE BELLATRIX  
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### VICE PRESIDENT

**ELDON "BUD" LAWSON**  
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### TREASURER

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### SECRETARY

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Headquarters Squadron

C. Fred McAllister (2009)

#### 63<sup>rd</sup> Squadron

Roland T. Fisher (2009)  
James C. Dieffenderfer (2010)

#### 64<sup>th</sup> Squadron

Arvid J. Hougum (2008)  
Charles F. McClenny (2010)

#### 65<sup>th</sup> Squadron

James W. Eide (2008)  
Lehman C. White (2010)

#### 403<sup>rd</sup> 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  
Jim Cherkauer 2006-2007

\* Deceased

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Louise and I are looking forward to the reunion in Atlanta, in September. **Sam Commons** and his daughter, **Amy Nally**, has done a lot of work in putting this reunion together for the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association. Please plan to be there if you can. Who knows how many more will be able to attend.

There are members of the board, whose terms are expiring this year. Sadly the 403<sup>rd</sup> Squadron must select a replacement for **Bill Solomon**. All of the Squadron leaders should be finding new men to become their Squadron Directors

We will need a treasurer. **Bill Wilson** will be hard to replace. He has done an outstanding job, well beyond the duties of the treasurer for many years. He and our Elf, **Elain Pierce**, has put out the newsletter for us for many years. Bill also took on the job of having our reunion caps made for many years.

Bill is not able to attend our reunions anymore, but he will never be forgotten.

Communications has changed in war zones since you folks were in WWII. A service member in Iraq was able to watch his daughter graduate from high school here in Tucson by video conference using a satellite link. A service member overseas can also watch his baby being born using the same process. During WWII we used V-Mail. Now it is e-mail!

Louise and I have done a lot of travelling this spring. We went to Telluride, Colorado and played in the snow for a week. Then we went to San Francisco and took the Napa Valley wine train trip, visited Pebble Beach, Carmel and a few other places around there.

Memorial Day weekend we went to the White Mountains of Arizona. They happened to have almost a foot of snow May 22<sup>nd</sup> and

23<sup>rd</sup>. We have been going there for eighteen years, at that time, and this is the first time we had that amount of snow. The town we go to is about forty miles from Show Low and the altitude is 8500 feet.

See you all in Atlanta, in September.

*Jim Thompson*

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

**"Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far they can go." T.S.Elliot**

Received an application for Associate Membership from Mogens H. Kristiansen, Aavaenget 12, 4180 Soro, Denmark. He is a modeler and is presently creating a B-24J. He hopes to utilize the art work from the 64<sup>th</sup> Squadron's "IT AINT SO FUNNY" aircraft. In his research, he wants to attain the identification of the Cartoon Characters and a color photo of the aircraft. He also asks, if this the work of Sarkis Bartigian? If any of you have information re this aircraft, please pass it on to Mogens.

From Virginia Hohmann and her son via an e-mail from Jim Cherkauer informs us of the hospitalization of Frank Hohmann, 65<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Flight Engineer. They are hopeful of Frank returning home soon. Send Frank a "Get Well Card" at Pine Shadow Meadowlake, Hightstown, NJ 08520.

Received the following information from Jack Rusmisl, 64<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Bombardier. He and Robert Cooper, 64<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Pilot, attended the 2007 Veterans Day activities at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in San Diego, CA. Jack and Robert represented the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group and participated in the dedication ceremony of the B-24 Memorial Donor Plaques. Jack indicated that they were well received as Memorial Donors. The following is the "Lovely Annette" plaque (best I could do with what I received).

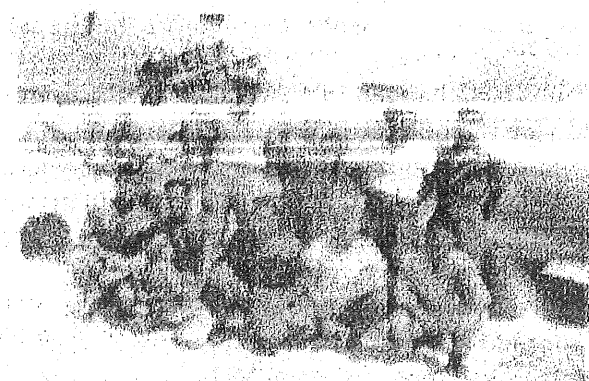
FOR THE COMBAT

FOR THE 24<sup>th</sup> Lovely Annette

FOR THE 43<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP, 44<sup>th</sup> SQUADRON

FOR THE 43<sup>rd</sup> BOMB GROUP, 44<sup>th</sup> SQUADRON

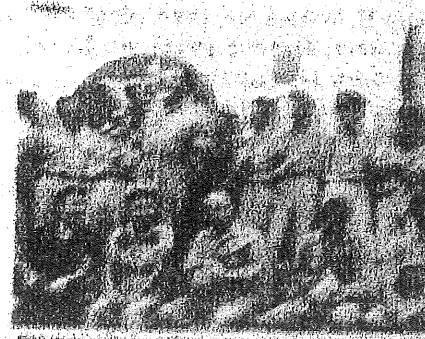
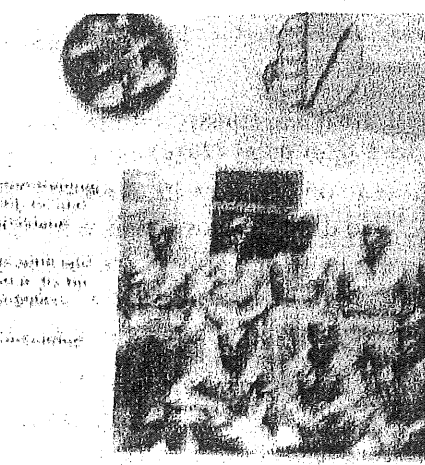
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Robert Cooper and Sons Jan and Van  
B-24 Memorial, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA



Robert Cooper in the Museum

During some of the talks with Robert, he revealed that his friend, Marie Furrie, had an accident and suffered a broken neck. She is in a nursing home and he is traveling back and forth visiting her. He must cancel the Reunion trip for her, but he plans on attending if at all possible. He has only missed three of our reunions. Robert we hope to see you there and wish your friend a speedy recovery.

\*\*\*\*\*MEMORIALS\*\*\*\*\*

April 30, I received the following letter.

It is with sadness that I report the passing of my husband, **Capt. Leland R. Loughrey, 403<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, Navigator** on January 19. Our 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary is coming soon, he is truly missed.

He did enjoy our visit with **Bill and Nancy Solomon** at the 27<sup>th</sup> Reunion (Bill was the radio man on his crew). This leaves only **Harold Thompson**, the copilot (Orlando, FL) of their crew. Lee looked forward to the Newsletter. Thanks to those who keep it going as a "labor of love." The articles have certainly been Interesting. Lee fought a great battle with grace and courage-not many of our friends knew he was so very ill.

Sincerely, *Charlotte Loughrey*

This should have been in the April Newsletter. I received the message via telephone, my note must have become lost in the chaos of my computer room. Dear **Charlotte** I hope you will forgive me for the pain this must have caused.

Received the following message from **Neil Fairbanks** via a phone call from **Andy Anderson**. **Allen E. Greenstein, 403<sup>rd</sup> Squadron Bombardier** passed in May 2008.

**Eldon "Bud" Lawson** reports the 10Jan08 death of his **65<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Flight Engineer Norbert "Mike" Michalowicz**. "Bud" received this notice from **W. R. "Bob" Gaffney** their pilot. Mike had attended many 43<sup>rd</sup> Reunions, but was in poor health in recent years. He was 82 and retired from Ford Motor Company. He is survived by a sister, two daughters, one son and several grandchildren.

Received a letter from **Doris Bouton**, by e-mail from **Jim Thompson**, about her husband **Edmond L. Bouton Jr., 63<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, Rad/Ecm**.

"Edmond passed away Feb. 25, 2008. He did enjoy your get together. We always had a lovely time. It was always nice to see his old buddies. Please say Hi to them for us. Arlington National Cemetery held the

most beautiful funeral I ever witnessed. The Air Force really takes care of its own. I thank you and again wish you all a very happy get together."

*Doris Bouton*, wife of Edmond since 1942.

An e-mail from **Steve Whitt**, son of **Thomas Whitt**, 403<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, Arm/Gunner, informed that his mother **Mary** had passed away in March 2007.

A note from **Beth Morgan** concerning **Ernest N. Morgan**, 65<sup>th</sup> Squadron, Pilot. "I sent the enclosed funeral notice last Sept. Did not see anything in the ensuing newsletters. There is a chance I sent it to the wrong address. However Ernie was always interested in your news and knew some of the the guys. So I thought there might still be someone out there that would like to know of his death."

Sorry Beth, I did not receive the notice and I can assure that all of the guys are sad to hear of that Ernest has answered the Final Roll Call.

Received much information concerning the crew of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Squadron B-24, S/N 42-40475 "The Swan" which was lost 3Dec43. The men, who had been MIA for over 60 years, have been recovered through the efforts of many. The crew, **Albert Caruso**, **Kenneth Cassidy**, **Robert Coleman**, **Robert Frank**, **William Fraser**, **Paul Micias**, **Robert Morgan**, **Irving Schechner**, **Joseph Thompson**, **Ronald Ward** and **George Wallinder**, are being returned to their honored place of rest.

A press release of this is on the following page.

**Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.**

**Know the line has held, your job is done.**

**Rest easy, sleep well.**

**Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.**

**Peace, peace, and farewell...**

## Remains of 11 WWII Airmen Missing for Years Identified

Last Edited: Friday, 25 Apr 2008, 10:33 PM CDT

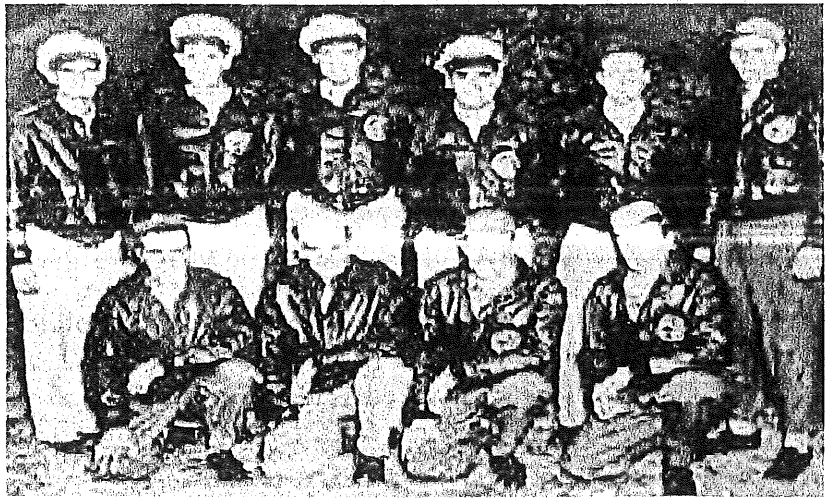
Created: Friday, 25 Apr 2008, 9:07 PM CDT

By RANDALL CHASE

Associated Press Writer

DOVER, Del. -- The remains of 11 airmen whose bomber disappeared during a World War II mission over the southwestern Pacific have been identified and are being returned for burial with military honors, Pentagon officials said Friday. Three of the men were from New Jersey.

The men were members of the Army Air Forces 43rd Bomber Group, 63rd Bomber Squadron. They were listed as missing after their B-24 Liberator, the Swan, failed to return from a mission on Dec. 3, 1943.



Missing WWII Airmen. (Photo courtesy: U.S. Department of Defense)

The crew had departed from New Guinea on a reconnaissance mission over New Hanover Island in the Bismarck Sea. They reported dropping their bombs on target but, despite several radio contacts with their base, never returned.

The remains were recovered between 2004 and 2007 after members of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command located and excavated a site on New Guinea where wreckage had been spotted by native hunters four years earlier.

Scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial DNA and dental records to positively identify some of the remains, the military said. Some of the crewmen were also identified through circumstantial evidence, including identification tags.

Kathleen Lund -- sister of 2nd Lt. Ronald F. Ward of Cambridge, Mass. -- said searchers found two of his rings at the crash site, including Ward's high school graduation ring.

"This is going to be such a closure for my family," said Lund, who lives near Boston.

The pilot, Capt. Robert Coleman, was an athletic instructor from Wilmington, Del., who enlisted in September 1941. Military officials said Coleman's family did not wish to comment.

In addition to Ward and Coleman, the airmen have been identified as 1st Lt. George E. Wallinder of San Antonio; 2nd Lt. Kenneth L. Cassidy of Worcester, Mass.; 2nd Lt. Irving Schechner of New York; Tech. Sgt. William L. Fraser of Maplewood, Mo.; Tech. Sgt. Paul Miecias of Piscataway, N.J.; Tech. Sgt. Robert C. Morgan of Flint, Mich.; Staff Sgt. Albert J. Caruso of Kearny, N.J.; Staff Sgt. Robert E. Frank of Plainfield, N.J.; and Pvt. Joseph Thompson of Compton, Calif.

A funeral for Morgan was held Thursday in Holly, Mich., followed by burial at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Donald Morgan of Flushing, Mich., who was 11 when his brother died, described him as "a great guy" who wanted to go to college and study engineering.

Morgan said his brother's remains were identified through analysis of a piece of bone less than an inch long.

A group casket will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia and be marked by a headstone with all 11 names, said Larry Greer, a spokesman for the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office.

"In a larger group like this, there is always hundreds of skeletal fragments that could not be individually identified. Those are collected in a group and placed in a single casket," he said.

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

From Roger Kettleson, 64<sup>th</sup> Pilot

It is hard to find a joke today without a dirty word in it, but here are a couple.

Two tall trees, a birch and a beech, are growing in the woods. A small tree begins to grow between them, and the beech says to the birch, "Is that a son of a beech or a son of a birch?" The birch says he cannot tell, but just then a woodpecker land on the sapling.

The birch says, "Woodpecker, you are a tree expert. Can you tell if that is a son of a beech or a son of a birch?" The woodpecker takes a taste of the small tree and replies, "It is neither a son of a beech nor a son of a birch. It is however, the best piece of ash I have ever poked my pecker into."

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" She asked. "Hunting Flies" he responded. "Oh. ! Killing any?" She asked. "Yep, 3 males, 2 females." he replied. Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone!"

Bill and Sam, two old WWII buddies, met in the park every day to feed the pigeons, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems. One day Bill didn't show up. Sam didn't think much about it and figured maybe he had a cold or something. But after Bill hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried.

However, since the only time they ever got together was at the park, Sam didn't know where Bill lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him. A month had passed, and Sam figured he had seen the last of Bill. But one day, as Sam approached the park—lo and behold— there sat Bill! Sam was very excited and happy to see him and told him so. Then he said "For crying out loud Bill, what n the world happened to you?" Bill replied, "I have been in jail." "Jail?" cried Sam. "What the world for?" "Well," Bill Said, "you know Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I go sometime?" "Yeah," said Sam, I remember her. What about her?"

"Well, one day she filed rape charges against me! At 89 years old, I was so proud when I got into court, I pled guilty. The damn judge gave me 30 days for perjury!"

\*\*\*\*\*INFORMATION\*\*\*\*\*

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 Elain Pierce at 1101 E. Coliseum Dr., P.O. Box 360, Snyder, TX 79550-0360**. It is most important that C/O Elain 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 **43<sup>rd</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

These enclosures will assist you in planning for the Reunion.

1-Brochure of Events and Atlanta

2-Activity List and Planning Document (Pages 1-6)

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

**Please note the items identified with an asterisk, these items require your special attention.**

Amy reports that she has been fortunate enough to add the following events to the Atlanta Reunion Schedules:

**Thursday Night-Ladies/Guest Program featuring professional historical writer/speaker presenting the history of Atlanta.**

**Friday Night-Southern Dinner Buffett with guest appearance by the Dixie-land Jazz Ensemble of the U.S. Army Ground Forces Band, into today's Air Force presented by the Dobbins Air Base (Marie headquartered at Ft. McPherson, Georgia.**

**Saturday Night-After Dinner Address on historical transition of original WWII Bomb Groups into today's Air Force presented by the Dobbins Air Base (Marietta, Georgia) active duty Air Force Historian.**

**Saturday Night-Dancing with local Disc Jockey presenting the Sounds of the Forties.**

**Sunday-Memorial Service "Taps" performed by selected professional Bugler from U.S. Army Ground Forces Band, Ft. McPherson, Georgia.**

During my activities, over the years, I have received several diaries from some of our members. I will start adding portions of these as the volume of our newsletter permits. I received the diary of **Randall J. Sobotka, 63<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, Flight Engineer** as prepared by his wife **Bea** and daughter **Susan**. Since these diaries will require several issues, I suggest you collect a complete copy for your memorabilia as they are issued.