

APR. 1984

10th Edition - 63rd, 64th, 65th, 403rd, Hdqs Squadrons, April 1984

FROM BOB BUTLER

After a hard winter, it is time for a newsletter to bring us up to date on "84" plans and the progress of our effort to bring together members and friends of the great 43rd BOMB GROUP.

1984 MEETING

TIME: September 28-30, 1984
PLACE: Hyatt Regency, Crystal City
Arlington, Virginia

This is a new hotel, 688 rooms, located near National Airport, easy shuttle to airport and Metro (subway) within three blocks, also, nearby shopping and easy access to points of interest in the Washington area.

We have reserved 180 rooms for Friday, and 200 rooms for Saturday. More than ample facilities for dining and meeting in privacy. The rate is \$55.00 double. In addition to inside parking, an adjacent free parking lot is available on the weekend for 600 vehicles. Advance registration forms will be mailed with the newsletter.

REUNION FORMAT

Check in on Friday for get together as a group, and by squadrons with plans for supper meetings by squadron. Craft sessions for the ladies. Saturday A.M., Business meeting and board meeting with general get together for all. Local tours of historical areas, White House, Air Space Museum, Arlington Cemetery, Alexandria, etc. will be offered for Saturday Afternoon. More details on this later. Saturday night banquet for singing and dancing. No long speeches. On Sunday morning, we will have a Memorial Service, and those who can stay longer may wish to take a short flight for a few days to BERMUDA to relax after the reunion excitement. A questionnaire is enclosed for suggestions and other organizational information.

FIFTH AIR FORCE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

BOB BUTLER, NEIL FAIRBANKS, HAL WINFREY and JOSE HOLGUIN attended an organizing session in Atlanta, Ga. on March 17, 1984 as auditors for a proposed 5th Air Force Memorial. Some 35 from all Groups of the 5th Air Force were present. A constitution was adopted, to be followed by incorporation and plans for the future in cooperation with the governments of Australia, New Guinea, and USA. Participation by the 43rd Bomb Group Assoc. will be discussed at our 84 reunion.

NEWS

The input for general items of interest come to Butler, Boren and Anderson by mail and phone - mostly to Bob, and due to the volume he receives and his lack of attentive response. they are sometimes overlooked, but not lost or forgotten. As a result of the enclosed questionnaire, perhaps we can get a volunteer or two to bring more efficiency to this worthwhile endeavor. I'm not complaining because my fondest dream has been realized, and I've received great support, financially, and on the working level, but I guess I'm really just an old fashioned country lawyer, unable to move into the 21st Century and work out the real goal of rounding up all of our WW II 43rd buddies, the preservation and production of an authentic anecdotal and factual history of the 43rd, and continuing meeting of this unique group of people, beginning in 1941 and extending into the future, for my three sons and all of our progeny as a proud moment in our past. Well, enough of my preaching - down to the news.

Closest to my heart is a chance to actually visit, with time to talk and reminisce, old and new friends from long ago. BUTLER and wife Doris, on a recent trip to Florida, spent the night with old navigator buddy from the 63rd, BILL "DAR" HOOVER and wife Virginia. They live in St. Cloud, right on the Alligator Lake. While at Hoover's, we called LEN SYMROSKI in Ft. Myers, Fla, JIMMY DIFINDERFFER in Orlando, (his wife is very sick). Hoover had also been in touch with WALDO SCHAUWEKER, 64th, who was vacationing in Florida.

Also had a long phone call to "CHUNKY" WILFERT in Louisiana, a navigator in the 63rd. One of the High spots of the Florida trip was a visit in Tampa with 65th gunner, JOE SHAPURAS. He was on CRAWFORD'S crew (ditched on one mission), but still as scrappy as ever, although facing some serious health problems. He has given me for safe keeping, very valuable records of his combat day for future history of the 43rd. When you see and talk with vets like JOE SHAPURAS and LOUIS "SWIFTY" PRIFTY, who also has a health problem, you can see the great spirit of the 43rd which produced the outstanding records of which we all can be proud.

GEORGE WHITE, 403rd, now an executive with Metropolitan Life in N.Y., sent some good suggestions on the 5th AF Memorial which were taken to Atlanta. CHRIS PARR, 403rd, and wife Pat, have plans for a new home in California. TOM JAMISON sent me several names of Calif. families who are interested in the Memorial. Also, several mailings from JIM GOETZ, Cincinnati, Ohio, and CARL HUSTAD of Minn. about the memorial. FATHER SHEA "COACH" was in our home for dinner on his way to Florida. He is not only a great donor, supporter etc. but when he finds a missing member, he sends a check for the new recruit's dues. NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, and wife had a visit with former 43rd Group Commander, COL. JIM PETTUS in Hawaii, with great support and suggestions on Memorial. Col PETTUS had diplomatic duty in Australia, postwar, and his background will be of great help.

Some of my best letters come from FREDERIC CHEUVRONT and BOB ROTH, both from Calif. They are good at locating their crews and Fred did real service in procuring caps for the "83" reunion on the Queen. ED BELL, 64th, from Maine is a good writer and recruiter, he had recent visit with BOB HALL in N.Y.

An interesting letter from WILFRED R. HARDER, he is 68 years old, served as navigator in the 7th Bomb Group, Oahu and Java, in the 19th Bomb Group, and eventually the 43rd until 1944. He was in Madigan Army Hosp. for bypass surgery at time of our QM reunion. Now lives with his brother at 16293 Santa Bianca Dr., in Hacienda Heights, Ca. 91245. I would love to talk with him about his duty in those days of combat. A good letter and fat check from TED EOFF, Texas. He made contact with an old buddy, JAMES "MAC" MC CLURE. Thanks to CHARLIE BELLOWS, we have located and heard from JIM HARCROW, pilot 65th, who lives at 12 Ruedale Roi, Fort Walton Beach, Fla. 32548, and LLOYD'S navigator. WARREN "DOC" BRYANT. STEVE BLOUNT 3rd, 403rd, has talked to Lloyd several times, and sent in new members, and is trying to round up as many of his crew as possible to make the Arlington reunion.

GEORGE CRITSIMILIOS from N.Y., has joined. He flew missions in the 64th with HARRY STEVENSON and COL. PETTUS. Some interesting details about the QM 1942 voyage from PATSY PAGANO, retired in N.Y.. He sent a contribution to the Memorial. The former 63rd Flight Surgeon, DR. AL CARP, has recruited one of our dentists, DR. MORRIS KIRSCHNER, Box 5019, West Babylon, N.Y. 11707. From GEORGE LEAHEY, 3318 Occidental St., Bakersfield, CA 93305, "It was with some hesitance that I decided to attend (QM '83), since I felt I may not know anyone. I can now recommend to anyone with similar feelings, not to let such thoughts worry them. You don't have to know anyone, because the 43rd Bomb Group is composed of the most congenial people that one could hope to meet." AMEN George, and thanks for that expression of support.

We missed M/S A.B. "SPEEDY" LE CLAIRE. TX, at the QM reunion. He came to San Antonio and OK City, but because of health problem, was unable to be at Long Beach in 83. One of my old bombardier and poker playing buddies from the 63rd will be at 84 meeting in Arlington. He is DAVID M. ANDERSON, 103 Pinewood Rd., Newton, Miss., retired lawyer. His daughter is married to Army Col. soon to move from Brussels, Belgium to D.C. He hopes to see "LONG" JOHN LOMBARD, who is also a lawyer in Seattle, Washington., and has had a visit from his pilot, JIM MURPHY in the area on business with Boeing Aircraft. One of the 63rd radio operators is now a veterinarian in Sussex, N.J. He married the sec'y for the Base Cmdr. at Sioux Falls, S.D. after returning to States. He is CARL P. HUFF, and will surely be at the 84 meeting. Another fat check was received from CHRIS SLONE, 403rd, Mousie, KY. He is enthusiastic about our 84 reunion and welcomes 43rd vets to Kentucky. I am very happy to hear from LOUIS LE BLANC, Waltham, MA. He was Sqd historian in the 63rd Operations, where I worked in 1943 after finishing 7 missions.

I wish I could include more news items, but can only promise a full roster with addresses with next newsletter. I feel guilty when I lay all of this info

rough form on LLOYD BOREN to edit, print and mail out to some 700 members. I'm proud that we have never dropped a single name from the roster although many more than 50% never respond or send dues. The support recieved is appreciated and well used. However, the future depends on each member locating others and writing and visiting. Eventually, we will be able to sponsor regional week-end reunions, and be better organized to transmit info on our members, now in all 50 states (see breakdown by States furnished by Boren.). Please contact BUTLER, BOREN OR ANDERSON with dues, news items, newly located members and suggestions.

MEMBERS BY STATES

ALABAMA	5	ALASKA	1	ARKANSAS	11	ARIZONA	8
CALIFORNIA	76	COLORADO	19	CONNECTICUT	18	DIST OF COL.	4
DELAWARE	3	FLORIDA	37	GEORGIA	4	HAWAII	3
IOWA	14	IDAHO	4	ILLINOIS	22	INDIANA	9
KANSAS	13	KENTUCKY	3	LOUISIANA	5	MASS.	21
MARYLAND	7	MAINE	4	MICHIGAN	9	MINNESOTA	6
MISSOURI	11	MISSISSIPPI	4	MONTANA	2	N. CAROLINA	5
N. DAKOTA	2	NEBRASKA	31	NEW HAMPSHIRE	4	NEW JERSEY	9
NEW MEXICO	4	NEW YORK	36	OHIO	25	OKLAHOMA	13
OREGON	7	PENNSYLVANIA	34	RHODE ISLAND	1	S. CAROLINA	7
S. DAKOTA	3	TENNESSEE	6	TEXAS	61	UTAH	2
VIRGINIA	15	VERMONT	3	WASHINGTON	9	WISCONSIN	10
W. VIRGINIA	2	WYOMING	8	AUSTRALIA	3	plus 2 Associates	

The top 10 States in order are: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Colorado.

TAPS

DONN DANKERT, 403rd , PHIL TRAVER Gone but not forgotten.

HEALTH & HAPPINESS TO ALL

BOB BUTLER	LLOYD BOREN	ANDY ANDERSON
511 FOREST LAKE RD.	102 BEECHWOOD	15114 CHETNEY DR.
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28305	UNIVERSAL CITY, TX 78148	BALDWIN PARK, CA 91706

We would like to have as many answer the following questionnaire as possible.

NAME _____ SQD _____ TIME PERIOD _____

ADDRESS _____ CURRENT OCCUP. _____

PHONE # AREA CODE _____

FUTURE ORGANIZATION

SHOULD WE INCORPERATE ? _____

OFFICERS- CHAIRMAN _____ VICE CHAIRMAN _____

DIRECTORS _____ TREASURER _____

MEETINGS - suggestions for annual and regional mini-reunions.

VOLUNTEERS FOR DUTY. Will you engage in active basis as CHAIRMAN _____

VICE CHAIRMAN _____ TREASURER _____ DIRECTOR _____

Will you help to organize and sponsor a regional reunion in your area ? _____

Do you support the proposed 5th AF Memorial ? _____

FORMUDA- OCT 1ST - 4TH ANYONE ? _____

Please return this questionnaire with any suggestions to R.H. BUTLER at 511 Forest Lake Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28305, phone 919-484-3013.