

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



NEWSLETTER 114th EDITION APRIL 2010

PRESIDENT ELDON "BUD" LAWSON 23942 WOLF ROAD BAY VILLAGE, OH 44140-2857 440-871-9538

VICE PRESIDENT ARVID J. HOUGLUM 3820 LONDON RD-201 DULTH, MN 55804-2233 218-525-0021 TREASURER
ROGER G. KETTLESON
109 HUNTLY
LAS VEGAS, NV
89145-1515
702-363-2824

SECRETARY
EDWARD L. GAMMILL
5337 E. EARLL DR.
PHOENIX, AZ
85018-8045
602-840-7101

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Headquarters Squadron</u> C. Fred McAllister (2011)

<u>63rd Squadron</u> Charles Rauch (2011 James C. Dieffenderfer (2010)

64th Squadron Robert W. Cooper (2011) Charles F. McClenny (2010)

65th Squadron
James W. Eide (2011)
Lehman C. White (2010)

403rd Squadron Robert P. Mangan (2011) Jack Strange (2010)

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
James Thompson Jr 2008
**Deceased

Web site: www.kensmen.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

After we have all seen so many winters, each year we look for spring more eagerly. But, at this year's coming spring, please join me to make an even more joyous welcome for this one. Then, to further tease our aging bodies and souls, we have the country's economy and political dilemma, as testy, as we have ever known. Whatever I can report to all you stalwarts of the oft-labeled "Greatest Generation," I would hope to inspire your optimism and leave the doom and gloom to those who fuss over the widely varying remedies, in short, we have all seen it before and lived it down.

Instead, lets look forward to the precious months and years that we have yet to live. I suggest that the first step in our inspiration is to plan to attend our reunion in Orlando in September. It will be the 30th year for these annual gatherings. Our 2010 host, Nancy Solomon, has given countless hours in planning for this one. Nancy has had unexpected roadblocks, some may be due to that nasty economy, and we all need to support her by rewarding her great effort, and join her in Orlando. As our numbers continue to decline, we also face the fact there has been no valid bid, as yet, to host the 2011 reunion.

In the year of 2010 we can celebrate the 65th year since the end of WWII in 1945. It is heart-warming to know that there are so many of you with whom we communicate via the excellent Newsletter compiled by our succession of fine Secretaries and Ed Gammill the current Editor. The elected Board of Directors, at this 2010 meeting, must deal with the most important issue ever, the future of this association, and the matter of future reunions.

As I write this I've just brought my wife, Betty, home after more than a month in the hospital. It is remindful that after 65 years, we must live those Golden Years as best we can. Last evening I had a long phone conversation from Florida with **Past-President**, "Chuck" Rauch, who was a neighbor of ours here in Ohio before he retired to the warm climes. One of the many topics we discussed was the pending funeral, at Arlington National Cemetery, March 24, of former 64th Squadron pilot. Col. "Nick" Arabinko.

When you read this it will be April, AH! Spring, I hope. But I have a question. Will I be over my annual "March Madness?" I've had this recurring condition to basketball as long as I can remember. So far, each year, aided by baseball, I've been cured by July or so. This year may be more difficult, as the NBA extends the basketball season well beyond March, and our local Cleveland Cavaliers are currently No. 1 in that league! I may need a new special treatment this year to cure the madness. If any of you suffer this same "madness" just take two aspirin and tune into a baseball game.

Now to balance this non-wisdom eruption, I like to find wisdom by quoting the word of our past leaders. One I like is wise old Benjamin Franklin, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty or safety." I sure hope to see y'all in Orlando this September!

Eldon E. 'Bud' Lawson

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

"These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now deserves the love and thanks of man and woman."

Thomas Paine, 1776

The January Newsletter arrived on the 12th and before I could open my mail, I had a notice of an error! So on page 2, **Vice President Arvid Houglum's** e-mail address is <ARVID <u>TX@aol.com</u>>

Mail sent to **Elain** that was included in my newsletter package:

From **James L. Harcrow**, **65**th **Squadron**, **Pilot**—"I have been having eye and arthritic problems. I guess my age, 92, has given me health problems. I will try to make the 2010 43rd Bomb Group Association Reunion, in September in Orlando, FL. Should be a good one".

Thanks,

Jim Harcrow

PS-"Please say hello to Mary Lois for me. Thanks for doing an excellent job for the 43rd".

From Wife of Earl L. Reshaw, 65th Squadron, Pilot—"I am writing to thank you for sending me the 43rd Bomb Group newsletter. I turned 94 years of age Oct. 22, 2009 and have macular degeneration and cannot read.. Since Earl passed away in 1999 and with my reading problem, please stop mailing the newsletter. Thank you for sending them to me".

Vours

Mrs. Earl Reshaw

From F. Neal Fugate, 63rd Squadron, Pilot-"Going for Life Membership (About Time!). I am catching up with the past and going for the future. Thank for your patience".

F. Neal Fugate

Bethel F. Ray, 65th Squadron, Flight Engineer sent Elain his 2010 Membership Dues and these comments: "I am hoping this is the right amount. If not enough for one year, you inform me and I will reimburse the association the difference. Keep all if there is an excess.

Merry Christmas and GOD's blessings abundantly in 2010".

Thanks,

Bethel F. Ray

A note to Roger Kettleson from P. J. Roberts, who lives in Australia—"I have been an Associate Member for years. Now at 88 years of age, it is time to be the Old Soldier and quietly "Fade Away".

So would you please accept this C_{*} due to cover the past 2 years dues I owe pur association and cancel my membership. Thank you for having me along".

Sincerely,

Pete Roberts

Chris Hirsh, son of Nathan "Joe" Hirsh, Jr., 63rd Squadron, Navigator has become a Life Associate Member. Chris's address—PO Box 998, Hutto, TX 78634-0998, Phone (512) 417-8831. Chris writes:

"My father was the navigator on **Murphy's** crew and often flew in the B-17F PLUTO. He passed away August 2, 2008 in Georgetown, Texas. I am a member of the CAF Devil Dog Squadron based in Georgetown, Texas. We have a B-25J. It is a Gun Nose Version.

I will copy my dad's war diary and share it with the 43rd Bomb Group Association. I still have my dad's leather flight jacket with the early 63rd "FLYING FORTRESS BOMB" patch. He wore it during his

B-17 days!!"

Chris Hirsh

Chris, please send a copy of the diary to me. I will include it in a future newsletter. Ed Gammill I received a letter dated January 8, 2010 from Ray Crawford, 63rd Squadron, Pilot, in which, he reported the following: "I just received word that Helen Epplon passed away (details are in MEMORIALS). Helen was the wife of Fred Epplon, 63rd Squadron, Navigator. Fred became the Navigator on General Whitehead's personal Crew, which also included Major Glenn Ream, Pilot; Ray Crawford, Copilot: and Gordon Bayor, Radio Operator.

"I remember as we were flying Generals Whitehead, Jimmy Doolittle and Thomas White to Tokyo, September 2, 1945 from Okinawa, there was a solid overcast as we approached Tokyo. We could see Mt. Fujiama sticking up through the clouds; but we were wondering how we could see the airport. But as we neared Tokyo there was a hole in the clouds and there was Atsugi Airport! After we landed as scheduled, the generals were taken to the battleship Missouri. The crew stayed with the aircraft (B-17). After the surrender ceremonies, we departed for Okinawa, which was weathered in, so we went to Iwo Shima. We radioed ahead that we had rank onboard. When we arrived a staff car approached; but after seeing all of the generals the driver drove away! A Jeep came to our aircraft and picked up our generals. While we were standing there wondering what was going on, General MacArthur's BATAN ©-54) arrived. General Jonathan Wainwright stepped out of BATAN, standing as tall as ever, after having been a POW for all of those years since the Batan Death March. To me, seeing him was more of a thrill than if it had been Gen. MacArthur, whom I never saw. MacArthur signed the Peace Treaty for the United Nations; Admiral Chester Nimitz signed for the United States".

"From the deep freeze-minus 10 degrees this morning, we are OK and hope you are also".

Ray Crawford

New address for Reginald and Lucille Tatro, 65th Squadron, Radio Operator: Fairwinds Sand Creek, 3310 Valencia Drive, Apt 107, Idaho Falls, ID 83404

A new address for Valerie B. Wertz, 3500 Woodside Road, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648. Valerie also wrote the following:: "After saving the Newsletter all these years, they are being read by my grandson. He is an engineering student at the University of Maryland and is fascinated, especially with the articles written by the men---- as they lived it. They are wonderful stories and we all appreciate them so much. My husband was Richard H. Wertz, 63rd Squadron, Gunner". Thank you,

Valerie B. Wertz

A report from **Associate Member Fred Hagen**, dated February 7, 2010: "It has taken me 14 years, a small fortune and much more stress that I ever envisioned, but I have finally succeeded in exporting my B-17 "SWAMP GHOST" from Papua New Guinea (PNG). I recently flew to Sydney, Australia where I checked the progress of the P-47 Thunderbolt that I salvaged in 2004. The P-47 is being restored to flying condition and appears to be at least 5 years away from take-off.

"I flew on to PNG, where I organized the B-17 for shipping and moved her to the dock at Lae. Every

delay set my nerves on edge because past experience has taught me how fraging agreements are in PNG. Despite my fears, the old B-17 is now on a ship en route to Taukranga, New Zealand where she will tranship to the Port of LA. Sadly, the last two crewmen died within the past few months. Now, none of her crew will be in LA to greet her.

"I am now making plans to go back for Sullivan's P-38 that was shot down near the Ramu River in the Markam Valley" My very best regards to you all,

Fred Hagen

A note from Roland Fischer, 63rd Squadron, Pilot and 43rd Bomb Group Association Chaplain: "I am way behind—just returned home—had to do surgery for a broken hip. Did not pay attention to airspeed, trying to walk in blinding sun and pranged!"

SMOKIE ONE

During February, Associate Member **Don Williams**, son of **Leonard F.Williams**, 65th **Squadron**, **NCOIC of the Photo Section and Aerial Photographer**, visited my home. We had a mini-mini Reunion. During his review of some of my 43rd data, he recalled and recited, from memory, an inspirational poem---St. Crispen's Day Speech. Quite a display of memory talent! The poem is included as an attachment.

I received a letter from new Associate Member Louise Terrell, daughter of William "Bill" Vought, 64th Squadron, Radio/Gunner. Louise is researching her father's service history. The letter is an attachment to this newsletter. Please assist/help Louise in her quest..

Bud Lawson passed along a note from Col. James Pettus' daughter asking for details of the Silver Star her father received. If any of you know, send info via e-mail to <rachael@cyanet.com.cy>

Vice President Arvid Houglum, who is the Chairman of the Committee to study the shut down of the 43rd bomb Group Association, submits the following statements and questions to the membership. He request that all members make known their wishes and recommendations for this activity.

1-Although suggestions were made at our 2009 Reunion meeting in San Antonio that we meet in Washington DC in 2011, so far no members have volunteered to bost this event. If any member is

Washington, DC in 2011, so far no members have volunteered to host this event. If any member is interested in following up on this activity, please send your comments to this Committee.

- 2-It has been proposed by the Committee that we continue to post Newsletters twice a year for three or four years following the 2010 Reunion. One reason for this is our hope that our WWII History Book will finally be published. The Newsletters will help in providing names and addresses of members and their closest relatives.
- 3-Officers and Squadron Directors will draft a proposal during the year following our last Reunion regarding the donation of remaining Funds after paying for our Final Newsletter. We will make this an item for discussion at our September General Meeting in Orlando.
- 4-We would appreciate input from all of you regarding the final years of the 43rd Bomb Group Association. You may comment by sending E-mail to your Secretary <<u>edgammill@aol.com</u>> or a letter to any of your Directors

My Christmas Card to **Charles R. Woods, 63rd Squadron, Maintenance Flight Chief**, was returned marked DECEASED. My letter of December 26, 2009, in which, I sought information concerning Charles' death, was unanswered until January 18, 2010. On that date, I received an e-mail from **Eileen Mershon**, who had purchased Charles' home. She provided the name and address of the law firm that handled the estate. My letter to the law firm, of January 19, resulted in an e-mail, dated February 3, from **Lori Ward**, Charles' daughter.

Lori reports: "After my mother, **Elizabeth**, passed away (January 2008 Newsletter) my father's health made a rapid decline. I moved him to my home in Connecticut, before Christmas 2007, so I could care for him. Sadly he passed away February 29, 2008. My three brothers and I greatly miss both and very proud of their service to our country. During the days my father felt up to it, he worked on creating a CD of photographs of the 43rd Bomb Group at war. I will send you a copy".

Lori Ward

An e-mail from Past Presicat Jim Thompson reports the passing Casernard P. Lynn, 65th Squadron, Flight Engineer.

January 18, I received an e-mail from Past President Max Axelsen: "Beverly Mulligan just gave me the news of the passing of Nicholas Arabinko, 64th Squadron, Pilot, at his home today. Bev reported his illness previously, and it was reported in the January Newsletter. Nick will be cremated and buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

I have been corresponding with Nick for a long time and it was a memorable association with one of our great warriors. God Bless you, Art and our 43rd folks".

Max

February 27, I received the following additional information: "Col. Nicholas Arabinko passed away on Jaanuary 18, 2010 at the age of 90. He is listed on the 43rd Bomb Group Association website and I wasn't sure if anyone had let your group know, so I thought I would contact you.

I am his granddaughter and will be attending his service at Arlington National cemetery on March 24, 2010. His wife is still living and doing well. His son passed several years ago, but his two daughters, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren are still living.

His e-mail remains active, as I believe my Aunt checks it, but it will likely go offline soon. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nicole Miller

The January 12, 2010 death of Orvis L. Cason Jr., 64th Squadron, Bombardier was reported by his wife Charlotte. The obituary is included as an attachment.

February 18, I received a phone call from **Karen Anderson**, informing us of the death of her father, **Charles Lloyd Anderson**, 63rd **Squadron**, **Pilot** February 17. Services were on February 25, 2010. Lloyd was a very dear friend, I had many good reunions with him.

Wallace Muson, 64th Squadron, Radio/Gunner sent the following letter from John P. McCann, dated September 20, 2009. "I'm sorry to inform you that Colonel John Smith, 64th Squadron, Navigator died on March 29, 2009. John (Smitty to you and his other WWII comrades in arms) had a heart attack about two weeks before his death and never recovered. He spent the last week in hospice care and was attended to daily by his friends, his niece and nephew who were dearest to him. He was buried with military honors in Richmond, next to his wife Ann.

"My wife and I lived next door to John for about 25 years and were good friends. He was so very proud of his WWII service, the many missions that you flew and what you all accomplished. I know that if he were alive, he would have loved the card you sent him"

Best Wishes,

John P. McCann

Wallace added this note: "Col. Smith and I were on **Shad Shaddox's** B-24 crew during 1943/1944 in the 64th Squadron, 43rd BG, USAAF. As far as I know, I am the sole remainder of this crew. Col. Smith DOB 9/29/1918, died 3/29/2009 at age 91"

Our members will be missed, and their service to their country will always be remembered. Sincerest condolences to the families, friends and loved ones.

Many nonliving things have gender.

Ziplox Bags are Male, because they hold everything in, but you can see right through them.

Sponges are Female, because they're soft, squesszable and retain water.

A Subway is Male, because it uses the same old lines to pick people up.

The Tire is Male, because it goes bald and it's often over-inflated.

An Hourglass is Female, because over time, the weight shifts to the bottom.

The **Hammer** is Male, because it hasn't changed much over the last 5000 years, but it's handy to have around.

A **Remote Control** is Female. HA! You thought it'd be male, didn't you? But consider this - it gives a man pleasure, he'd be lost without it, and while he doesn't always know the right buttons to push, he keeps trying!

For All of Our TEXANS

A drunken cowboy lay sprawled across three entire seats in a posh Amarillo Theater. When the usher came by and noticed this, he whispered to the cowboy, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat." The cowboy groaned but didn't budge. The usher became more impatient. "Sir, if you don't get up from there I'm going to have to call the Manager."

Once again, the cowboy just groaned. The usher marched briskly back up the aisle, and in a moment he returned with the manager. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the cowboy, but with no success. Finally, they summoned the police. The Texas Ranger surveyed the situation briefly then asked, "All right buddy what's your name?" "Sam," the cowboy moaned. "Where y'all from, Sam?" asked the Ranger. With terrible pain in his voice, and without moving a muscle, Sam replied, "The Balcony!"

For Our Mechanics and Doctors

A mechanic was removing a cylinder-head from the engine of a Harley monocycle when he spotted a well-known cardiologist in his shop. The cardiologist was there waiting for service when the mechanic shouted across the garage, "Hey Doc, want to take a look at this?" The cardiologist, a bit surprised, walked over to where the mechanic was working on the monocycle. The mechanic straightened up, wiped his hands on a rag and asked, "So Doc, look at this engine. I open its heart, take the valves out, repair any damage, and then put them back in, and when I finish, it works just like new. So how come, I make \$39,675 a year and you get the really big bucks (\$1,696,759) when you and I are doing basically the same work?"

The doctor paused, smiled, then leaned over and whispered to the mechanic—"Try doing it with the engine running!"

One More From Nick

Students of an advanced Biology class were taking their mid-term exam. The last question was:

"Name seven advantages of "Mothers Milk." The question was worth 70 points or none at all!

One student, who had partied late the night before, had trouble thinking of seven advantages. He wrote:

1-It is perfect formula for the child.

2-It provides immunity against several diseases.

3-It is always at the right temperture.

4-It is inexpensive.

5-It bonds the child to the mother, and vice-versa.

6-It is always available as needed.

And then, the student was stuck! Finally, in desperation, just before the bell rang, indicating the end of the test, he wrote:

7-It comes in such cute containers.

He received an "A"

Thanks Nick we will miss you and these bits of humor.

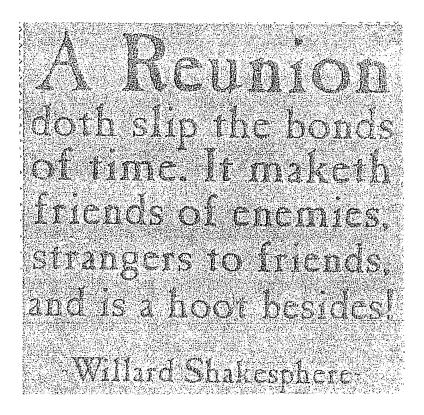
This newsletter is published four times a year - January, April, July and October. Please send membership applications and dues payments to Elain Pierce, P.O. Box 84, Snyder, TX 79550. Please keep in mind that annual dues are \$20.00 per year and life membership is \$100.00. Please make the check to the 43rd Bomb Group Association.

Send items for the Newsletter to Ed Gammill at 5337 East Earll Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85018-8045 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 Ed Gammill at the address shown above. Send all changes of phone numbers, etc. also.

*************ATTACHMENTS*********

- 1-Survey----43rd Bomb Group Association Future
- 2-St. Crispen's Day Speech
- 3-Louise Terrell's Letter dtd 31 January 2010
- 4-Jacks Matisoff's Combat Log Book -Remember this was a Courts Martial Offense for an enlisted man to maintain such a record. What a shame, that so much history was lost.
- 5-Obituaries
- 6-Late news and a request (if you can identify any of these folks, inform me)
- 7-Information, data and forms about the 2010 Reunion.



SURVEY

CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE 43rd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

YES NO
2-Do you plan to attend the 2010 Reunion? YES NO
3-Will you attend future Reunions, if they can be sponsored and arranged? YES NO
4-Should the present Reunion format be maintained for future Reunions? YES NO
5-If NO, should the length be shorter or longer? Specify the number of days
6-Location? EAST MID AMERICA WEST
7-Facility? Should a cruise ship be considered? YES NO
8-Maintain the KENS MEN website? YES NO If YES, your recommendation on how to accomplish saving this EXCELLENT correspondence tool.
9-What will be the status of our Newsletter? CONTINUE REDUCE NUMBER PER YEAR DISCONTINUE How will the finances of Elain, printing and postage be handled?

Please CIRCLE your answers, add your comments and recommendations. Then transmit via e-mail or US Mail to Ed Gammill < Edgammill@aol.com > 5337 East Earll Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85018-8045 or Arvid Houglum < ARVID TX@aol.com > 3820 London Road-201, Duluth, MN 55804-2233

Henry V

St. Crispen's Day Speech William Shakespeare, 1599

Enter the KING
WESTMORELAND. O that we now had here
But one ten thousand of those men in England
That do no work to-day!

KING. What's he that wishes so? NG. vvnat's he that wishes so?
My cousin Westmoreland? No, my fair cousin; If we are mark'd to die, we are enow To do our country loss; and if to live, The fewer men, the greater share of honour. God's will! I pray thee, wish not one man more. By Jove, I am not covetous for gold. Nor care I who doth feed upon my cost; It yearns me not if men my garments wear; Such outward things dwell not in my desires. But if it be a sin to covet honour. I am the most offending soul alive. No, faith, my coz, wish not a man from England. God's peace! I would not lose so great an honour As one man more methinks would share from me For the best hope I have. O, do not wish one more! Rather proclaim it, Westmoreland, through my host, That he which hath no stomach to this fight, Let him depart; his passport shall be made, And crowns for convoy put into his purse; We would not die in that man's company That fears his fellowship to die with us. This day is call'd the feast of Crispian. He that outlives this day, and comes safe home. Will stand a tip-toe when this day is nam'd, And rouse him at the name of Crispian. He that shall live this day, and see old age, Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbours, And say 'To-morrow is Saint Crispian.'

Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars. And say 'These wounds I had on Crispian's day.' Old men forget; yet all shall be forgot, But he'll remember, with advantages. What feats he did that day. Then shall our names. Familiar in his mouth as household words-Harry the King, Bedford and Exeter. Warwick and Talbot, Salisbury and Gloucester-Be in their flowing cups freshly rememb'red. This story shall the good man teach his son; And Crispin Crispian shall ne'er go by, From this day to the ending of the world. But we in it shall be remembered-We few, we happy few, we band of brothers: For he to-day that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother; be he ne'er so vile. This day shall gentle his condition; And gentlemen in England now-a-bed Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here. And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

Don gave this bit of history concerning the poem:

On the St Crispen's Speech: William Shakespeare wrote "Henry V" in 1599 as a dramatized version of the Battle of Agincourt, which pitted the English against the French in 1415. The English were outnumbered about 5 to 1! But they won the battle by the use of the newly introduced longbow, which devastated the French Cavalry before they ever got near the English. As you may note—here is where the term "Band of Brothers" was born—not by Stephen Ambrose who 'borrowed' from others without crediting them.

To the 43rd Bomb Group "Band of Brothers" read and enjoy, for you have carried on the tradition.

Don Williams

By way of introduction, my father, William (Bill) Voght, was a gunner in the 64th Squadron from June 1943 to June 1944. He then went on to serve in the CBI as a radio operator on C-109s. He passed away in December 1985. I am recently retired from the U.S. Army and am rearching my Dad's service during WWII. I became a member of your association this past year and it has been nothing short of fabulous to be able to read about all the goings-on, both then and now, of so many of the members of this terrific organization. I unfortunately missed the first 110 editions of your newsletter, so I am wondering if there is a place to access them electronically as I'd be very interested in doing so.

I was especially interested in your last edition (Jan 2010) which mentioned the repository of the 43rd being initiated at George Mason University, just down the road from my current location in Burke, Virginia. I will be sure to contact Mr. Vay to get a sense of where this project is headed as I am the proud caretaker of many of my Dad's WWII items, everything from his flight 'helmet' and wristwatch, to photos with crewmates and more than 50 letters and V-mails between himself and his family. It certainly was an interesting time for the young men and women of this country, so many of whom deployed to places barely known to most.

In this same edition, I was also captured by "Excerpts from William L. Jobe's War-time Diary". I had three areas of specific interest.

Mr. Jobe mentioned several times his missions on 'Zombie', A/C #913 - not always with great fondness - understandable when his first mission in that aircraft resulted in an emergency landing and over 100 ack-ack holes! My father, SSgt Voght, was - along with LT Frank Krones and others - among the original crew that flew Zombie over from the States.

Mr. Jobe mentions the loss of A/C #991 and its crew on 4 June 1944 (LTs Petty, Katzen, and Bohman mentioned by name). Interestingly, I can find no mention of any aircraft being lost on this date nor can I find A/C #991 mentioned as an aircraft loss in the various databases and queries I've tried, such as the Missing Aircrew Report, a database of lost B-24s, etc.). What I have found (http://www.abmc.gov/search/wwii unit_detail.php) is a by-name list of 64th Sqdn losses from WWII, which includes the names of 10 men who were lost on 4 June. They are TSgt Eugene Bailey, 2LT William Bohman, TSgt Harold Cranmer, SSgt Gilbert Dillon, SSgt James Ervin, 2LT Lester Katzen, 2LT Albert Kenyon, 1LT Julian Petty, SSgt Warren Thompson and SGT William Towery. Can anyone validate that all of these men were together on A/C #991 when it went into the sea on 4 June? Also, can anyone tell me the full serial number of A/C #991 and whether it had a name? One of those lost, SSgt Warren Thompson, was an original crewmate of my Dad's both during training in the States and subsequent deployment to New Guinea and I'd like to verify information on his death.

Lastly, he mentions the 64th's new Squadron insignia, 'an Indian looking through a telescope sitting on a bomb'. I have two of these patches, one made of leather and the other of cloth, probably wool. Mr. Jobe mentions that the Squadron sign had 'Pride of the Air Force' written beneath the insignia - can anyone tell me if "Pride of the Air Force" was the 64th's motto? I had not previously read of them having a motto anywhere on the website.

Again, because both my Dad, his family, and eventually my Mother, saved so much of his wartime memorabilia (official orders, letters and V-mails, etc.), I have had a very rewarding

experience researching his 36 months of service both in New Guinea and India-China. I have been in touch with several relatives of my Dad's crewmates, much of it initiated because of your great website. I thank all of you for your service, then and now, and wish you all the best for continued health and happiness. Any information or enlightenment that you might be able to provide will be appreciated. And, if your reunion is held here in Fairfax, Virginia in 2011, I will make every effort to be there!!!

Warmest regards,

Kung V Tangel Louise Voght Terrell

7318 Lightship Court Burke, VA 22015 703-455-3819 lterrell5@verizon.net COMBAT HOURS AND MISSIONS OF

3/347. 3 2. MATISOFE 6573440

NOSEGONNER ON FILL

FROM DUT. 28 TO -

NOTE ON LAST PAGE PLEASE READ

MEC. AI - O'NEAL - CAPE GLOVE 11 12-0'NEAL - TARGET #3. 4:10 11 24-0'NEAL CAME GLOVE 4:10 11 25-Q'NEAL-CAPEGLOUC. " 40 - HETTY - 3APE. GLOGE. 4:00 430 Hill# 666 LOS MEGACS Jan. 26 - MEYER-7.00 I'SLA NO " 27-0' NGIL - EAS NEEDES 7:0 15 C冷假自 FEB. 1 - MEGIREDN-LOS NEGERS 5:00 P IS GAME, INC. FER-13-CINEAL - KAVIENG N. S. 7.20 11 14-0-NEAL- KAVIENG, N.I. 11 15- O'NEAL-RELO. Epingely3:30 11 17- O'MEAL - KANIEND, M.T. INC. 5:00 11 20 - O'NEAL - ALEXISHAREN 645 1121- O'NEAL- REEN BAY 5:46 1122-SHADDOK- " 6:15 1123- BY NEAL-WEWAK 7:00 11 2 4-PEIÉFFER - PLEXIS HAFEN 16:45° 1125 DINEAL WEWAR. 7 20 1127- O'NEAL - WEWAK

B-17 TIME UPTO JAN. 7 1943 3 MISSIONS - 21:00 df +5. CRACHED UP OUJANTE B-24 TIME STARTING NOV. 1 NOV. B. - MALLORY - RECCO. 7:10 PARRAN -ALEXISTER POL 4.35 11 19- COLLIER - BISMALK & 12:55 4:20 1128- CINEAL- WEWAR 6:30 5 MISSIONS IN NOV. DOC 3-0 NEAR -CAPE 5:45 4- DINGIL-1 En T-0" MCOL - BIS MARK 11 13-0 NEAL - EPTOR 00:16 16 - 0' MENG - PRAWE jā:oo 4:10 19 - O'M CAL - CHERGLAND W co

	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH
FEB. 29 - O'NEHL-MONUS HELLO	1 (
MADEL - MEST - HERISHASEN	
# T- FE, TY - H WMMY METY ILL.	1:15
1 7-OLKOWERT - APMIRALTY IS,	6:25
11/3- FETTY WELDAR	4:35
" I + O WEAK - TADIT	5:40
11 15 - PETTY - WEWAK	C. J.
11 16 - O'NERL - NIREIN RENEG	3: 30
11 16 - O'NEAL - WIRGIN RELEGO 11 21 - ON EAL - SHOPERS "IS LINE AREA	5.00
127- ONEAL - ULL EAST HATT OF	5,20
11 77- 0 40	7:10
4 30 - ROACH - HOLLAHOLA ALRESTA	_
11 31 - GINEAL - HOLLANDIA - 1	7:00
And the first contract the second sec	Z.a. 1
AFRICH CINEM- HAMSNENY	5,30
CART MISSION	
1 () 4 D	į
46 MISSIONS	
	· 1.5-1
and control of the co	

I HAVE AN ACLUUMS IN
THE BANK DE NOW
DO ITH WALES. IN THE
EVENT OF MY DEATH, I
REQUEST THAT THE
MONEY BE DISPOSED OF, AS
PER INSTRUCTIONS IN MY
WILL. SIGNED

JORAN MAKESAFI-STA

6573440 US.AA.F.

3/3/44.

Time to 3 Alexander Dates

TIME TO - A PRIL 2 - 305:50

Subj: Date: Death Notice of Lt. Col. Cason

From:

1/30/2010 9:39:39 PM US Mountain Standard Time

cadcac@embargmail.com

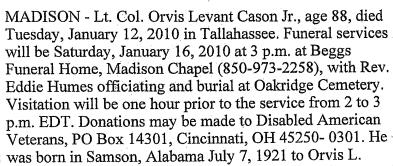
EdGammill@aol.com To: Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Mr. Gammill,

I want to inform you of my husbands death on Jan. 12, 2010. He was one of Ken's Men, and flew several of the planes mentioned on your web site, Hip Parade, Bob's Hope, and his favorite plane was The Swamp Angel. Below is his obituary and pictures of him with the mentioned planes.

Sincerely, Mrs. O. L. Cason, Jr.

Lt. Col. Orvis Levant Cason Jr.





Cason, Sr. and Lois Loree Hartman Cason. He later lived in Geneva, Alabama, and graduated high school there. After graduation he went to work for the Alabama State Road Department. July 7, 1942, his 21st birthday, he enlisted for cadet training in the Army Air Corp and was accepted. He was trained as a pilot bombardier and navigator in B-24's. During WW II he was stationed with the 5th Air Force, 64th Bomber Squadron, 43rd Bomber group in the Southwest Pacific from 1943-1945, and flew 46 Combat missions. In 1947 he switched to the newly created United States Air Force. He joined the Air Force Reserves October 1, 1969 and taught bombardier school, and then retired from the reserves March 26, 1981. After the war he attended the University of Florida and graduated in 1952 with a degree in forestry. He joined the United States Department of Agriculture, where he worked until his retirement in 1980. He continued to stay busy as a free lance reporter, and also as District Supervisor for the USDA until June 1998. He was active in his church, First Baptist of Madison, and was an ordained Deacon. He was a member of the church choir, and also coached the church softball team for many years as well as being an active member in the Senior Adult Ministries. Due to ill health, he was honored with the title of Deacon Emeritus in 2005. He worked tirelessly with the Future Farmers of America, Association of Christian Athletes, the Farm Bureau and the Annual Livestock Show, and also volunteered for years as a mentor at the Madison Primary School and as an aide to several teachers. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Charlotte; two sons, Dean Cason and wife Christine of Denver, CO and Clark Cason and wife Tonya, of Augusta, GA; three step-children, Michael Anderson and wife Terry of Lake Charles, LA, Karen Hackett and husband Scott of Douglas, MA, and Linda Smart of Melrose, FL; eleven grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; two sisters, Annette Taylor of Camino Island, WA, and Phyllis Davis and husband John of Tallahassee, FL; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Published in Tallahassee Democrat on January 14, 2010

Charles R. Woods

Charles R. Woods, 88, of 12 Bentley Lane, Lititz, passed



away on February 29, 2008, in Ridgefield, CT. Born in Carlisle, he was the son of the late Cloyd & Mary Wilt Woods, and the husband of the late Elizabeth K. Woods who died in September 2007.

K. die ten

A graduate of the Class of 1939 of Rothsville High S c h o o l,

Charles served in the Army Air Corp during World War II, and in the Air Force in Korea retiring as a Chief Master Sergeant in 1966. After leaving the Air Force, he worked for Braniff Airways as an aircraft representative for the Boeing 747 traveling to and from Vietnam. He then went to work for World Airways from 1968 to 1982.

He and his wife traveled extensively after retirement from the Air Force to over thirtyeight countries and every state in the U.S. His hobby was

restoring classic cars.

Survivors include his children, Clinton C., husband of Rita Woods, Mountain View, Canada; Michael L., husband of Beth Ann Woods, Bryn Athyn; Gary W., husband of Pamela Woods, Dublin, CA; Lori B., wife of Stephen Ward, Ridgefield, CT; nine grandchildren; six great grandchildren; sister, Nora Splain, Columbia; and brothers, Wayne, husband of Carol Woods, Metter, GA; and Robert Woods, Huachuca, AZ. Preceding him in death was a brother, Clinton Woods.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2008, at 2:00 P.M. at Richard H. Heisey Funeral Home, 216 S. Broad St., Lititz, PA 17543 with a visitation for one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Longenecker's Cemetery, Lititz. Contributions may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society, 314 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603. To send online condolences, please visit: ichardheiseyfuneralhome.com

Subj:

Re: B17 Swamp Ghost article

Date:

3/18/2010 11:41:53 AM US Mountain Standard Time

From:

Fredhagen@aol.com

To:

Fredhagen@aol.com, oldbaldy1943@aol.com

CC:

jimcher@adelphia.net, axelsen1@sbcglobal.net, edgammill@aol.com, irmrol@msn.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Gentlemen:

For those of you who have not seen this thing on the web already, I am forwarding a small but nice article that graced the cover of the Philadelphia Daily News last week. The have a copy of my film trailer up for online access as well. If you are interested, you can follow the following directions:

Click on the following link to access the Phila Daily News story about Fred's recovery of his B17 Bomber. Please click on the "related video" link to see a 2 minute film trailer of his upcoming documentary series: http://www.philly.com/philly/hp/news_update/86704107.html

Interestingly, the last three surviving crewmen died in the months leading up to the plane's release. The very last survivor died on the same day that the Swamp Ghost shipped from Papua New Guinea!

Despite the stated destination of PIMA, I am toying with the idea of taking the Ghost to either the Nimitz in Texas or the National WW2 Museum in New Orleans. PIMA is a great place but they lack personality and fail to tell stories or tell any cohesive histories of WW2.

Hope all is well with you all,

Fred Hagen

Subj:

Re: 1987 Vistors

Date:

2/23/2010 3:33:53 PM US Mountain Standard Time

From:

landahoy@netspace.net.au

To:

Edgammill@aol.com, stevepb@beagle.com.au

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Steve

I already have a copy of the July 1987 Newsletter with the list of those who came on the 1987 tour. These were included in my message of 25 January, and this is the extract: Dick Wood, George and Aileen White, Bill and Mary Lois Wilson, Fred and Margaret Blair, Russell and Clytie Sederberg, Bob and Doris Butler, Paul Cober, Orville K Coulter, Cletus Angermeier, Charlie May, Mike and Jane Edsall, Falconer and Goldie Gifford, Henry James, Chunky and Clara Marie Wilfert.

Perhaps if the photo I sent reproduced in black and white could be included in the newsletter, this may jog someone's memories!

One person who may not be in the photo is OK Coulter, as OK flew to Rabaul for part of the visit, and I cannot remember whether this was at the beginning or towards the end of their stay. Anyway, I can remember that OK wanted to fly over Rabaul without being shot at!

Bruce

---- Original Message ----

From: Edgammill@aol.com

To: stevepb@beagle.com.au; landahoy@netspace.net.au

Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2010 5:21 AM

Subject: 1987 Vistors

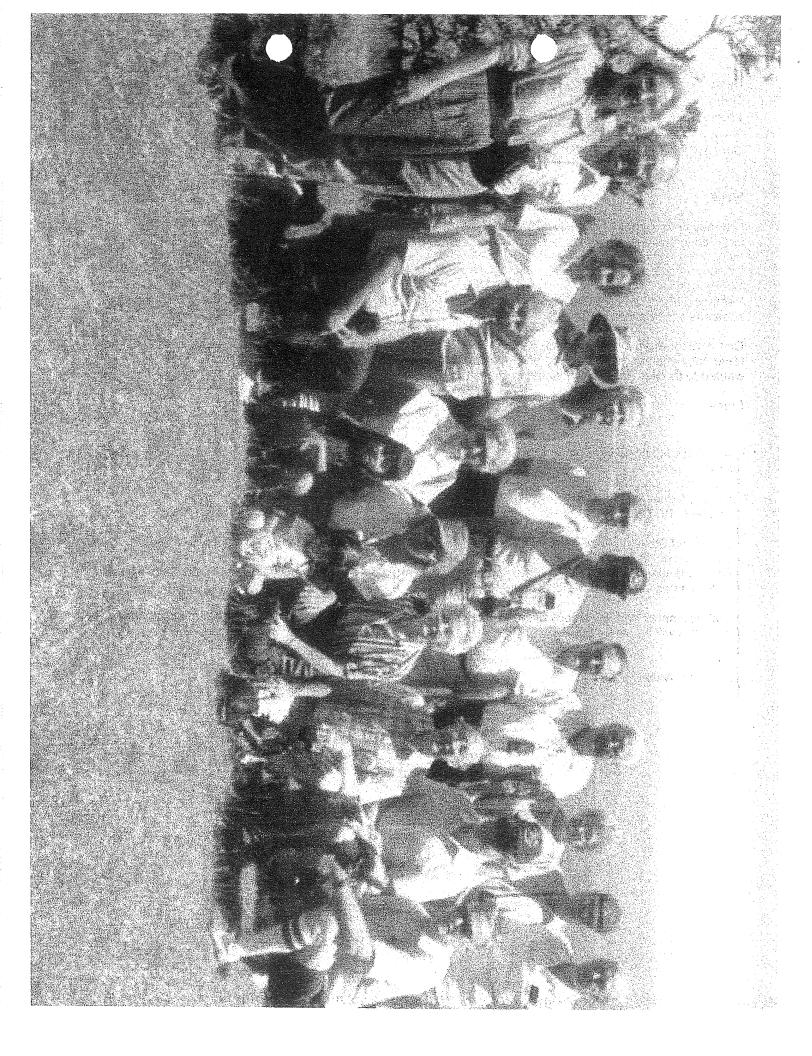
Bruce and Steve, I finally received a copy of the July 1987 43rd Bomb Group Association Newsletter from, Bud Lawson, our Historian.

I have trouble matching names to the photo! As I told you, I did not have much success at the 2009 Reunion. Unfortunately most of these folks have passed on.

I will attempt to transmit a copy of the section that reports the trip activity. It includes a list of all attendees. I hope this will be of use to you.

Ed

Australia-WakeUpCall



43RD Pomb Group Association, Inc. RE-UNION PACKAGE REGISTRATION

43RD BOMB GROUP RE-UNION - WALT DISNEY WORLD, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

ACCOMMODATIONS: CORONADO SPRINGS RESORT

1001 West Buena Vista Blvd., Orlando, Florida

SCHEDULED RE-UNION EVENTS;

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. - Re-union registration opens for early arrivals.

Memorabilia Room in Convention Center S & T

Meals on your own at leisure.

7:00 P.M. - 10:00P.M. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - Memorabilia Room S & T

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. - Breakfast on your own.

? - ? Golf Outing - TBD

1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M. - WWII War Movies & Videos, Memorabilia Room S & T

6:00 P.M. - Board Mears Bus - Depart 6:15 P.M. for Fort Wilderness (Hoop)

7:15 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. - HOOP Dee DOO REVUE - DINNER/THEME SHOW

9:15 P.M. - - Board Mears Bus - Depart 9:30 P.M. for Coronado Springs Resort

10:00 P.M. - - Arrive at hotel

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2010

6:30 A.M. - 8:00 A.M. - Breakfast on your own.

9:15 A.M. - Board Mears Bus - Depart 9:30 A.M. for FANTASY OF FLIGHT

10:00 A.M. - - Arrive at FANTASY OF FLIGHT

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. - Tour Immersions Environment

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon - Gourmet Lunch included

12:00 Noon - 1:30 P.M. - See the world's largest collection of historic vintage planes/ gift shop

1:30 P.M. - Board Mears Bus - Depart 1:45 P.M. for Coronado Springs Resort

2:00 P.M. - - Arrive at hotel

4:00 P.M. - Board Mears Bus - Depart 4:15 P.M. for Polynesian Hotel

5:15 P.M. - 7:15 P.M. - SPIRIT OF ALOHA - DINNER and THEME SHOW

7:15 P.M. - Board Mears Bus - Depart 7:30 P.M. for Coronado Springs Resort

8:00 P.M. - - Arrive at hotel

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2010

6:30 A.M. - 8:00 A.M. - Breakfast on your own

9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M. - GENERAL MEETING IN MEMORABILIA ROOM S&T

11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. - Lunch on your own. 12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M. - Memorabilia Room open

* * NOTE: (Memorabilia Room closes at 2:00 P.M. - All items must be removed by 3:00 P.M. to allow time for the Disney staff to get room ready for our Banquet Dinner there.)

6:00 P.M. - TBD PHOTOS by Disney Photographer - Squadron group pictures first. 7:00 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. - BANQUET DINNER/DANCE (Plated Dinner with cash bar) & DJ

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2010

8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. MEMORIAL SERVICE

8:45 A.M. 11:00 A.M. FAREWELL BREAKFAST BUFFET

43RD F mb Group Associatio Inc. RE-UNION PACKAGE REGISTRATION

Disney's Magical Express for Groups Using Call-in Reservations - Planner Information

Your guests may take advantage of Disney's Magical Express Service and receive complimentary round trip transportation from the Orlando International Airport. No need to worry about baggage claim as their luggage will be delivered directly to their resort room. Here's how the Disney's Magical Express Service works:

- **1. Book a Magical Express reservation**. A Magical Express reservation is required to use the service. We recommend guests book reservations at least 30 days prior to arrival. Guests need to provide:
 - Name of each person in room
 - Address (we mail the Airport Transportation Booklet including luggage tags to this address)
 - Airline and flight number arriving into and departing from Orlando International Airport

There are several booking methods:

- Call 407-827-6777 to book their Magical Express reservation
- Complete and fax the attached form to 407-824-1980
- Complete the online form on <u>www.disneyconventionears.com</u>
- 2. Guests receive their luggage tags. Approximately one week prior to arrival, guests will receive Airport Transportation Booklet containing general information and special luggage tags to attach to their luggage prior to departure. If the booking is made within 10 days, we cannot guarantee that the booklet will be mailed in time. If guests do not receive their Airport Transportation Booklet. Guests will still be able to utilize the service. Upon arrival at Orlando International Airport, proceed directly to the Disney Welcome Center on the B Side, Level 1.
 - 1. Guests do not need to claim their luggage. Disney will gather all of information and claim checks and collect the luggage for the guest and then deliver it to their Resort guest room.
 - If the guest chooses to collect their luggage upon arrival, they can bring it with them on the motor coach.This luggage is responsibility of the guest and will not be delivered to the guest room.
- **3. Carry-on bags.** Please advise your guests to pack any valuables, medications or anything needed immediately upon arrival into Orlando in a carry-on bag. The guest will take their carrying-on luggage with them on to the motor coach. Carry-on luggage is the responsibility of the guest and will not be delivered to the guest room.
- **4. Arrival at Orlando International Airport**. Upon arrival, proceed to the Main Terminal and then to the Disney Welcome Center which is located on the B Side, Level 1. Guests may follow the airport signs to Ground Transportation. At the Disney Welcome Center, guests will confirm the number of bags checked and outbound flight information before boarding a complimentary motor coach to their resort.
- 5. Transportation to the Resort. The motor coach may make up to 4 stops before arriving at the resort.
- **6.** Luggage delivery to the resort. Luggage with Magical Express tags will be claimed at the airport and delivered to the guest's room. Luggage may take up to 3 hours after guest check-in to be delivered. Guests do not need to be in the room to receive their luggage.
- **7. Returning home.** Guests will receive a Transportation Notice in their guest room the day prior to check-out advising of their motor coach pick-up time along with other general information. The motor coach pick-up time is based on the flight departure and will be approximately **3 hours** prior to that time to allow for multiple stops by the motor coaches.
- If your airline flight changes, please call 1-866-599-0951 with the new flight information.
- Each guest must have a Magical Express reservation and cannot change their pick-up location to another resort or your pick-up time to a later departure.

8. Resort Airline Check-In Service.

Upon departure, you may take advantage of Disney's complimentary Resort Airline Check-In Service for participating airlines. You can check your luggage and receive your airline boarding pass at your Disney resort so there is no need to check-in at the airport. The operating hours are 5:00 am to 1:00 pm daily and you can check-in at any time on your day of departure as long as it is not less than 3 hours prior to your flight departure time. At this time, the service is available for guests flying domestically on: Alaska Airlines, American, Continental, Delta, JetBlue, Northwest, and United (including Ted).

43RD Pomb Group Association, Inc. RE-UNION PACKAGE REGISTRATION

CORONADO SPRINGS RESORT, ORLANDO. FLORIDA

SEPTEMBER 8 thru 12, 2010 (Rooms are available prior to 9/6 & 9/7 and after the re-union 9/13)

You have the choice of placing a reservation by phone or on-line.

BY PHONE: (407) 939 - 1020

YOU WILL REACH DISNEY'GROUP REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT

MENTION YOU ARE PART OF THE 43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION AND MENTION GROUP #G0560269

THE GROUP RESERVATIONIST WILL CONNECT YOU TO OUR ROOM BLOCK.
AT PRESENT, WE HAVE 30 ROOMS BLOCKED, SO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS SOON.
IF NEEDED, WE CAN ACQUIRE MORE ROOMS, IF AVAILABLE.

DAILY ROOM RATE: \$124.00 PER NIGHT PLUS 12 ½% SALES & RESORT TAXES: TOTAL DAILY ROOM RATE \$139.50

ADDITIONAL PERSON (18 YEARS OR OLDER) \$ 15.00 PER PERSON, PER NIGHT

BE SURE TO REQUEST A HANDICAP ROOM AND A COMPLEMENTARY WHEELCHAIR WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION AND ESPECIALLY MENTION A WHEEL-IN SHOWER IF NEEDED OR A WALK-IN SHOWER, BECAUSE SOME HANDICAP ROOMS ARE NOT SO EQUIPPED.

ROOMS ARE TWO QUEEN OR TWO DOUBLE BEDS, HIGH SPEED INTERNET SERVICE. COFFEE MAKERS, IN-ROOM SAFE AND CEILING FANS.

43RD Pomb Group Association, Inc. RE-UNION PACKAGE REGISTRATION

ON-LINE: WWW.KENSMEN.COM

Use the macromedia flash and follow the directions.

Be sure to mention 43rd Bomb Group & #G056026.

If you are flying into Orlando International Airport, be sure to use the complementary DISNEY'S MAGICAL EXPRESS after you make your CORONADO SPRINGS RESORT REGISTRATION. It 's mandatory that you have purchased your airline tickets and confirmed your room reservation, prior to reserving Magical Express. Please see the articles with info about MAGICAL EXPRESS with different phone numbers if you phone in your request. If faxing, use the special FORM enclosed.

SEE YOU AT WALT DISNEY WORLD!!!!!!!!

DON'T FORGET TO ORDER DISCOUNTED ADVANCE TICKETS FOR THE DISNEY THEME PARKS OR ADD THE PARK HOPPER OPTION:

AFTER 2:00p.m. ONE DAY \$61.00; TWO DAYS \$108.00.

AFTER 4:00p.m. ONE DAY \$48.00.

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE DINNER RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE FOR RESTAURANTS IN THE THEME PARKS BY PHONING GROUP SALES (407) 939-1020 AND USING YOUR PARK HOPPER PASS.