

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



NEWSLETTER 121ST EDITION JANUARY 2012

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64th Squadron

Robert W. Cooper (2012)
Charles F. McClenny (2013)

65th Squadron

James W. Eide (2012)
Samuel F. Commons (2013)

403rd Squadron

Robert P. Mangan (2012)
Francis J. Drab (2013)

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
Eldon "Bud" Lawson 2009-2010
Arvid Houghlum 2011

*=Deceased

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To all Kensmen, I have enjoyed serving as your Vice President and as your President. My duty as President ends December 31. My best wishes to Robert as he takes over on New Years Day.

Arvid Houghlum

Gerry and Arvid, all Kensmen thank you for your service as President, Vice President and as the Host of our 25th Reunion in Bloomington, MN. You have served the 43rd Bomb Group Association well.

President Richardson's First Report: Some of my friends have asked "How did you become roped into the President's Job?" The fact is that I volunteered with no arm twisting. I am extremely proud of my membership in the 43rd Bomb Group Association.

I was only 15 years old when the Japs bombed Pearl Harbor and I was extremely impatient to get into the war. It was a long 27 months before I was sworn in. There were no openings for pilot training at Shepherd Field. When I was told it would take a year or more for Bombardier or Navigator training, I opted for gunnery school, which only required 6 weeks of training. I was determined to go over seas as soon as possible, but I did not know about transition training at Westover Air Base, radar schooling at Langley Air Base and gunnery school at Tyndall Air Base. It was May 7, 1945 before we made it to the 63rd Squadron of the 43rd Bomb Group.

..... There was no question, in my mind, that we were the best crew and we would survive. We only flew 11 combat missions before the war ended and we were at the Jap airbase Atugi at the end. I was discharged February 16, 1945 one month before my 20th birthday.

Our goal is to preserve our heritage and history forever. HOW? I do not know. I can think of some possibilities. I hope some of you have a better way and please share it with all of the Members of the 43rd Bomb Group Association.

Personally I favor a merger, however, not with another WWII Group. For they are facing the same problem we have, we are all "going west" in a relative short time. One possibility could be the 43rd Air Lift Group, which was deactivated in 2011 at Pope Air Force Base. They are the direct descendants of the 43rd Bomb Group. I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony at Pope. I was very favorably impressed with these people. I believe that it is possible that we could convince them to take over our association with the veterans of the 43rd Air Lift becoming eligible for membership. I do not believe that this would be an overly complicated merger. We have roots at Pope, for our founder Bob Butler was the Judge Advocate of Pope at one time as well as Mayor of Fayetteville, NC.

We could open our membership to others with an Air Force connection and other requirements to be formulated by our group. This would require an intensive recruitment program to attract new members to include especially younger people. The success would depend on how effective our recruitment program worked. It would be difficult and we could end up with more members but none willing and able to assume leadership and determined to preserve our history.

George Mason University will preserve our history and they are currently working on setting up a website that will be arranged so anyone can access this with cross reference to other items. Following is an up date from Scott Miller as to the progress and the plans for the future. It is hoped this will get ready by our 2012 Reunion in Dayton, Ohio.

The following is the Scott Miller e-mail:

"The team at George Mason University's Center for History and New Media (CHNM) began work on its Pacific Airwar Digital Archive in September 2011 with the goal of creating the definitive historical archive of the 43rd Bomb Group and making that archive available to any one at any time via the internet.

"In the first four months, CHNM has successfully built a digital platform for collecting and preserving all material relating to the 43rd and the 5th Air Force, while concurrently developing new search tools to make every item in the archive easily linked with related items that might be of interest to the user. While constructing this fundamental infrastructure, CHNM has also begun collecting content— recording close to 30 oral history interviews also collecting and archiving over 350 documents, photos and diaries.

"With these fundamentals firmly established, CHNM will be moving aggressively on two major fronts over the next six to twelve months. First, CHNM will be seeking access to content—i.e. any photos, documents, diaries, memoirs, etc. from veterans and their families that will help tell the story of the 43rd.

"The Pacific Airwar Digital Archive will also be pursuing grants and other forms of funding that will allow CHNM's Pacific Airwar working group to add to add badly need staff."

Scott Miller

Please send photos and documents that you wish to have included in our archives to Scott Miller, the Pacific Airwar Digital Archives Project, at <scmchnm@gmail.com> or (303) 931-0634 or US Mail Scott C. Miller, Center for History and News Media, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, MSN IE7, Fairfax, VA 22020.

In addition, George Mason U has offered the 43rd BG Association the use of their facilities for future reunion, including the use of their dormitory if desired. Eventually they will assume some, if not all, of the operations at some future date. At this time this seems to be the most promising opportunity for us to reach our goal of preserving our history and our association. To my knowledge no commitment has been made by the Association except that we will give them access to all of the history we have.

Please contact your elected board member and make your ideas and thinking known to him, The decisions that will be made at the Dayton Reunion by the Board and voting members are the most important since our founding.

Nothing will happen unless you are willing to participate! I urge each of you to express your ideas as to

how we can accomplish the goal of preserving our Association, history and heritage.

SPEAK UP NOW or FOREVER HOLD YOUR PEACE!

The Dayton Reunion is in the planning stage and will be detailed in the July Newsletter.

Robert R. (Bob) Richardson

******EDITOR'S AND MEMBER'S REPORT*******

**"Socialism is a philosophy of failure,
the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy,
its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery."**

Winston Churchill

Salsvatore Musella, Ramond Gates, William Smetts, Glenn Burwald, Milton Bass, John Yeager, Douglas Patterson, Charles Stenglein, Emil Lange Jr, Weldon Yost, Roger Little, Judith Broward, Wayne Downing, Bill Schirmer and Charles Cole have brought their dues up to date.

At the 2011 Board of Directors Meeting a motion, to place a 5 year limit on non payment of dues, was passed. Therefore, if your dues are in arrears for 5 years or more, you will be dropped from our mail list. The Board also wants Life and Comp recipients to indicate your wish to continue receiving the newsletter. Because undeliverable mail is not returned by the Post Office, no response will indicate that the address can be dropped.

I repeat this request from the October Newsletter. Please review your present dues payment status. The code on the address label of your Newsletter envelope, must be **PD12, LIFE or COMP. WARNING---if the PDO7 members do not update their dues payment, they will be removed from the mail listing. It is not the Board's wishes to remove anyone, but we must learn who is no longer an active member.**

A note from **John Yeager, 403rd Squadron, Pilot:** "Lots of memories, my most desirable activity: Revisited the travel from Nadzab to Ie Shima.

"I trust you can enjoy the holiday season. I'll be 89 in January--Lets take off in a B-24!"

John Yeager

A note, dated 11/20/2011, from **Col. Douglas A. Patterson, Associate Member, Pilot:** "As you can see, my label is marked PD-07. I have paid dues since then, but somehow they have not been recorded.

"However, the 43rd Bomb Group is dear to my heart! Therefore , enclosed is a check for \$100 to cover any back dues and maybe a bit extra for the general fund."

Doug Patterson

November 28, a note from **Charles Stenglein, 65th Squadron, Aerial Photographer:** "Enclosed 2012 dues. Thanks to all for doing a great job!"

Charles Stenglein

A message from **Charles Cole, 403rd Squadron, Crew Chief:** "Enclosed are my dues for this year and 2012. I'm only 94 and hope to see 2012 coming up. I have good health and still allowed to drive my Ford Ranger. In the summer, I mow a large lawn and plant a nice vegetable

garden. At the present, I had a dozen trees cut down and I'm busy making them into firewood! I take no meditation except a dose of honey and vinegar every morning for a starter.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the October Newsletter and the experiences of all the crew members. We flew B-17F S/N 41-24353 'CAP'N & THE KIDS' on photo reconnaissance for Gen. Eichelberger, 8th Army. Those memories are with me every day".

Good Luck and Best Wishes for the New Year,

Charles

Charles, you should give Ken's Men your recipe for that morning starter!

Received a letter from, **Lauren Mescon**, which was addressed: "Dear Ken's Men, "My dad has been gone since July 2005, but not a day goes by when I do not think of him. My dad was the gentlest, kindest human being I ever knew. Of course he had a temper, especially on the basket ball court when he coached the youth leagues! But he never lost that temper in an inappropriate way during my enter life.

"I write ya'll because I want to thank you all for what you have done, for how you have crafted this great country we live in today. As I watch all of what you and my dad fought for, threatened again, with Russia flexing its muscles, with Iran threatening us, with our allies wondering if we will be there, I wonder about what may come. But then, I received your newsletter and know that somewhere, as **Smokie One** wrote in the Chaplain Message, because of the "Way You Were"—this country will be fine!

"Because of the "Way You Were" and the way you raised the next generations and the influence you still have on us, we will rise again and stand up to the face of any evil that may come.

"I recently went to an NFL football game on veteran's day and there was a special honor for the WWII veterans and for our children as well. My father's imprint is evident on his grandchildren as I am sure yours are too.

"My dad was **Bobby Gordon, 5th Air Force, 43rd Bomb Group, 63rd Squadron**. He flew night missions, as a **Bombardier**, in the Asiatic Pacific Campaign. I wish I knew more about him then.

But I do know he, like all of you, was a war hero. You truly are the Greatest Generation and I thank you for all that you did, do and stand for.

Sincerely,

Lauren Gordon Mescon

A note from Judith Bousquet, in which, she established Life Membership and informed of her new name- **Judith A. Broward**. All other information is unchanged.

November 28, from **S.W. (Bill) Schirmer**: "I was one of those guys "Who came lately!" My time with the 43rd was 1946-1949 at DMAFB, Tucson, AZ.

"We had B-29 and B-50 aircraft. I was a **Remote Control Turret Mechanic**. Perhaps you recall Lucky Lady II and Lucky Lady I, which in August 1948, made a non-stop round-the-world-flight, with 8 in flight refueling operations.

"Loved my time with the 43rd Bomb Group!"

Bill Schirmer

Some of our members asked what was on the plaque at the base of the large Memorial that was displayed in the October Newsletter. **Michael Musumeci** sent this plaque wording:

MAREEBA AERODROME

This aerodrome played a decisive part in keeping Australia free from invasion during the Second World War 1939-1945. Allied aircraft from the 19th and 43rd Bombardment Groups of the United States Army Air Force and from the Royal Australian Air Force launched an air offensive against the Japanese invaders in June / July 1942.

A note from **Audrey and Roger Kettleison**: "My shoulder and writing hand just won't co-operate, so please accept this greeting from us and pretend it came in the mail! If you are unaware, we are living in Willow

Creek Assisted Living Complex, in a nice apartment with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and 2 walk-in closets. The apartment faces the west, so we see the mountains instead of another building.

"Roger uses a cane which supports us both, our memories are fading, but we can still go and do things that need to be done and that we want to do.

"The food is good, entertainment and activities if we desire, transportation if we need it, and medical care is available 24 hours if needed, so you see we are well taken care of, plus our kids live close by and come often.

"We hope each of you have a wonderful Holiday Season with those you love. Merry Christmas to each of you".

Roger and Audrey

Via e-mail from **Bud Lawson**, **Roger Little** has a new address: **Apt.602, 201 Plantation Club Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940-1929.**

On January 16, I received a request from President Richardson to include a list of our Officers and Directors for your use in making your ideas known. It is his hope, that you and the Board will become more involved the future of the Association. This listing, which includes names, US Mail addresses,, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, where available, is a separate attachment to this newsletter.

Received the following from **Phyllis M. Johnson** as a result of the directive re continued receipt of the newsletter. Dear Mr. Gammill,

"I read in your October 2011 Newsletter, 120th Edition, that you would like to know if we (Complementary Members) wish to continue receiving the newsletter.

"I am the widow of **S/Sgt Harold C. Johnson, 403rd Squadron** and have been receiving the Newsletters and enjoying all of them. I wish to continue receiving it. Harold and I attended over 10 reunions, enjoying all and Harold encouraged me to go to more after his death. We made a lot of friends and I did attend 3 more , accompanied by my daughters and sister. I am unable, physically, to attend anymore.

"I am anxiously waiting to hear that the History Book by Larry Hickey is completed. I wish to purchase one when it becomes available. Harold submitted some photos for the book and was interviewed by Larry.

"Thank you for all your work on the reunions and newsletter."

Sincerely,

Phyllis M. Johnson

Thanks Phyllis, you will **not be removed** from the mail list. I also continue hoping for our history to be published soon. I hope many of the Complementary Members will also let us know their status. Ed

From **Robin Bowen**: "I wish to thank you for the newsletters I continued to receive after my husband's death in 2006. He was **L. O. Bowen, 63rd Squadron, Radar Operator** and an Australian by birth and his home town was Perth.

"I have learned a great deal of those times, being then only a child. I have greatly appreciated it alongside my "War" friends, relatives and Australians. Australians were involved in what we like to call "**our own Pearl Harbor**" was **Darwin**, only now is it fully recognized. This is pretty typical of Australians, to be casual and bound to Britain. Our ties to the USA has recently been confirmed with a Base up north.

"As there is a need to conserve finances, I would gladly discontinue receiving the newsletter in the future. Several of those I considered of interest, I passed on to my husband's nephews, who were too young to have been involved.

"Thank you - Christmas greetings and a Peaceful and Safe 2012" Sincerely, *Robin Bowen*

Robin, the objective is not to remove members who are in good standing and wish to continue to receive the newsletter. Please continue to pass on our news and history to you friends and relatives. Ed

Ralph D. Grubb's Christmas Card included this note: "It was good to see you at the Washington, DC reunion. I am a Life Member of the 43rd BG Association. I wish to continue receiving the Newsletter.

"Hope we have another reunion in 2012. Best wishes to you and yours. *Ralph D. Grubb*

Francis Vandal, daughter of **Ernie Vandal, 63rd Squadron, Crew Chief and artist** who created most of the nose art on the 63rd Squadron aircraft, sent this message with her Christmas Card. "As always, thank you all for your warm thoughts and for keeping the flame alive. I read every newsletter cover to cover."

Francis Vandal

The two **Welcoming Banners**, the **Campaign Streamers** and the **Flag** were not available at the last reunion. Where are they? Do you think some of this history/memorabilia should be transferred to the 43rd Air Lift Group? Hopefully they would be displayed in the JAY ZEAMER HEADQUARTERS BUILDING? **Please provide answers!**

A note from **Chris DeAngelis, son of Anthony DeAngelis, 63rd Squadron, Crew Chief**: "Thanks for sending the video of the Mareeba dedication ceremony. I enjoyed reading about the progress of the memorial through the 43rd BG Newsletter. I think the videographer did a fine job of documenting the memorial dedication and presenting its importance today."

"We have moved, my new address: **Chris DeAngelis, 733 NE 118 Street--Rear, Biscayne Park, FL 33161.**"

Warm Regards.

Chris DeAngelis

*****MEMORIALS*****

On September 21, 2011, the day after our 2011 Reunion, **Susan Lanson, Michael La Vean and Justin Taylan** attended the service for the **65th Squadron crew of B-17E, S/N 41-2430, "NAUGHTY but NICE"**, who became **MIA** during a mission to Rabaul 26 June 1943. The order of the service is an attachment to the newsletter

November 18, 2011, an e-mail from Bud Lawson: "Received a call from the widow of **Thomas Daubert, 403rd Squadron, Crew Chief**. She reports Tom passed away September 10, 2010. She asked to be removed from the Newsletter Mailing List."

December 7, 2011, a letter addressed to the 43rd Bomb Group Association; "I am writing to let you know that my father, **John Q. McCabe, 64th Squadron, Engineering Officer** passed away on May 24, 2011. While my dad was not active in the Association, he enjoyed keeping up with the various members and news through the newsletter. Please delete his name from your mailing list at this time."

Sincerely, *Edward J. McCabe*

"**Roy L. Perry, Jr., 63rd Squadron, Flight Engineer** was a proud member of the 43rd Bomb Group, spending many hours talking about the comradery of his friendships and exploits on many missions overseas. I also know that he treasured the times he was able to join other members of the group on several occasions, since the war. The people, with whom, he had so much in common during such a critical time in our history.

"Roy passed peacefully, May 21, 2011, for the long awaited reunion with **Jimmie**, his life partner of 65 years. We will continue to think of them together over the hills of Prescott Valley as long as we are here on earth.

"Best wishes to those who remain behind, from his sons."

Respectfully,

Roy L. Perry III and Jim Perry

"I am saddened to report, my beloved husband **Abraham Hellman, 403rd Squadron, Navigator** passed away December 13, 2011. He was a life member of "KEN'S MEN." We attended two reunions with five other members of his crew. With the death of Abraham, the last man standing is **Rehart Zhuranac**.

"Abraham was 94 ½ years, had all of his teeth and didn't wear glasses. He leaves behind, his wife Sheila, three children and six grandchildren. Besides his pride in his family, he was most proud of his service to his

country.”

Sheila Hellman

December 8, 2011, from **Irene Dow**: “Tom passed away this evening. His brothers Jim and Ken were with him and it was peaceful. Tom had not been aware of anything for several days. My beautiful, youngest son is at peace..

Irene

I do not know how many of you knew Tom. **Thomas E. Dow** became a **Life Associate Member** of the **43rd BG Association** and one of my best friends. Our first correspondence and common interest was his research concerning the **Battle of the Bismarck Sea**. This resulted in his creation of a booklet in memory of his Uncle Alfred. I still cherish the copy he sent me, in which, he wrote a short note and signed. It is dated Sept. 2000.

Irene, his Mother, has granted my request to archive this document with **George Mason University**, with the **43rd Air Lift Group** and to send a copy to our **Historian ‘Bud’ Lawson**.

The booklet is a very well researched and written account of **S/Sgt Alfred E. “Allie” Dow** and the **63rd Squadron crew of Ka-Puhio-Wela, B-17F S/N 41-24356, the only heavy bomber lost during the Battle of the Bismarck Sea**.

At the bottom of the Memory Page, Tom added: “Where we love is home, home that our feet may leave, but not our hearts..”—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Tom and I continued to do many things that were of common interest, including **Sandy Smith’s** search for her father. Tom was there for Sandy on all occasions . We will miss him.

A note from **Russ Dow** on our website: “Hello everyone, I am Tom Dow’s older brother. For several years I have been “listening in” to all your conversations and have enjoyed them. I wanted you to know that Tom passed away last month after a long battle with cancer.

“You would have been proud of his courage. I know he treasured your friendships and was proud of the courage you have shown.

“He loved the history you lived and reveled in the chase for more information. Keep doing what you’re doing.”

Russ Dow

" He Only Takes the Best"

God saw he was getting tired,
And a cure was not to be.
So, he put his arms around him,
And whispered, "Come with me".

With tearful eyes, we watched him suffer,
And saw him fade away.
Although we loved him deeply,
we couldn't make him stay.

A golden heart stopped beating.
Hard working hands are at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

*****SENIOR MOMENTS*****

A couple was celebrating 50 years together. Their three kids, all very successful, agreed to a Sunday dinner in their honor.

"Happy Anniversary Mom and Dad." gushed son number one----"Sorry I'm running late. I had an emergency at the hospital with a patient, you know how it is, and I didn't have time to get you a gift." Not to worry." said the father "The important thing is that we're all together today."

Son number two arrived and announced, "You and Mom look great, Dad. I just flew in from Los Angeles between depositions and didn't have time to shop for you." "It's nothing," said the father, "We're glad ;you were able to come/"

Just then, the daughter arrived. "Hello and happy anniversary! I'm sorry, but my boss is sending me out of town and I was really busy packing so I didn't have time to get you anything."

After they had finished dessert, the father said. "There's something your mother and I have wanted to tell you for a long time. You see, we were very poor. Despite this, we were able to send each of you to college. Throughout the years your mother and I knew that we loved each other very much, but we just never found the time to get married."

The three children grasped and all said, "You mean, we're bastards?"

"Yep," said the father. "And cheap ones too!"

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph 's Hospital. She timidly asked, "Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?"

The operator said, "I'll be glad to help, dear. What's the name and room number of the patient?" The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, "Norma Findlay, Room 302."

The operator replied, "Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse's station for that room."

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, "I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood work just came back normal and her physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow."

The grandmother said, "Thank you. That's wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good news."

The operator replied, "You're more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?" The grandmother said, "No, I'm Norma Findlay in Room 302. No one tells me shit

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

From **Jim Eide**

The difference between Grandmothers and Grandfathers - Very touching!

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between Grandmothers and Grandfathers? Well, here it is: There was this loving grandfather who always made a special effort to spend time with his son's family on weekends. Every Saturday morning he would take his 7-year-old granddaughter out for a drive in his '56 Chevy for some quality time - just him and his granddaughter.

One Saturday, however, he had a bad cold and really didn't feel like being up at all. He knew his granddaughter always looked forward to their drives and would be disappointed. Luckily, his wife came to the rescue and said she would take their granddaughter for the drive.

When they returned the little girl anxiously ran upstairs to see her grandfather who was still in bed. "Well, did you enjoy your ride with grandma?" he asked. "Oh, yes, Paw Paw, it was really wonderful. We didn't see one single asshole, piece of crap, horse's ass, blind bastard, dipshit, Muslim goat humper or son of a bitch anywhere we went!"

Almost brings a tear to your eye, doesn't it?

From Me

Two little old ladies, Dorace and Jackie were sitting on a park bench outside the local town hall where a flower show was in progress. The short one, Jackie leaned over and said, "Life is so boring. We never have any

fun any more. For \$10 I'd take my clothes off and streak through that stupid, boring flower show!"

Your'on! Said Dorace, holding up a #10 note. So Jackie slowly fumbled her way out of her clothes and completely naked streaked (as fast as an old lady can) through the front door of the flower show.

Waiting outside, her friend soon heard a huge commotion inside the hall, followed by loud applause and shrill whistling. Finally, the smiling Jackie came through the exit door surrounded by a cheering, clapping crowd..

"What happened?" asked her waiting friend.

"I won \$1000 as 1st prize for "Best Dried Arrangement!"

*******INFORMATION*******

This newsletter is published two times a year - **January and July**. Please send **membership applications** and **dues payments** to **Edward L. Gammill, 5337 E. Earll Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85018-8045**. Please keep in mind that annual dues are **\$20.00 per year**. Please make the check to the **43rd Bomb Group Association**.

Send items for the **Newsletter** to **Ed Gammill** at the **US Mail address above** or via e-mail to **Edgammill@aol.com**. Any material received after the 15th of the month prior to a publication month probably will not appear in that publication.

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

- 1-An e-mail from Daniel Knickrehm, 43rd AG Historian. Relationship of 43rd BG and 43rd AG--2 pages
- 2-Linage and Honors History of the 43 Airlift Group (AMC)--5 pages
- 3-OFFICERS & DIRECTORS-- mail address,,phone number and e-mail address listing--1 page
- 4-Service Program for the MIA crew of the B-17E, S/N 41-2430--2 pages
- 5-Dow Obituary and Notice of MIA Discovery--1 page

Subj: **RE: 43rd Air Lift Group?**
Date: 1/16/2012 12:12:31 PM US Mountain Standard Time
From: daniel.knickrehm@us.af.mil
To: Edgammill@aol.com
File: **43AGLineageandHonorsHistory.zip** (17897 bytes) DL Time (TCP/IP): < 1 minute
Sent from the Internet (Details)

Ed,

Good to hear from you. Thank you for the opportunity to explain.

(For your reference I have attached the most current 43d Airlift Group Lineage and Honors. This document firmly establishes the current 43d Airlift Group as the successor to the original 43d Bombardment Group. Please understand that the "current as of" dates at the bottom of the document are for reference purposes only. The 2008 date is the last time the information was updated by the Air Force Historical Research Agency. I have been keeping the majority of it current since that time. Aside from operations and events all the information in the L&H is current.)

On 1 March 2001, as a result of Congressional mandated law, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process came to an official close on Pope AFB.

As a result of this law, the 43d Airlift Wing, as well as some of its subordinate groups and squadrons, was inactivated. In addition to these inactivations the real property that was then known as Pope AFB was transferred to Ft. Bragg and the Army. Now Pope Army Airfield is that area constituted by the flight line and the immediate area surrounding it. All Air Force units who were on Pope AFB are now tenant units on Ft. Bragg.

During that ceremony the 43d Operations Group, the successor to the fine heritage your 43d Bombardment Group founded, was re-designated the 43d Airlift Group. All the heritage associated with the original WWII 43d Bombardment Group lives on in the current 43d Airlift Group; as far as the Air Force is concerned it is the same unit.

Some of the confusion may stem from the way the Air Force assigns heritage, lineage and honors. When the 43d Bombardment Group became part of the 43d Wing, the heritage and honors from the group were "bestowed" on the Wing, that way the wing could share in the glory so to speak. When the Wing inactivated on 1 March 2011 all the heritage, Lineage and Honors were returned to the 43d Airlift Group (although it never really left, it was more like the Group shared its history with the Wing if that makes sense.)

I can assure you, as the 43d Airlift Group Historian, that the heroic efforts of all the men and women who have been a part of the 43d Bombardment Group in all its manifestations, lives on strong in the current Group. We are always interested to learn more and very soon it will be my main priority to make sure the current 43d is even more aware of its heritage than it is now.

Thank you again. Please let the members of the association know that I am always eager to hear stories, see photos and learn as much as I can about the history of the 43d!

Can you please tell me how to become a member?

Dan Knickrehm

Monday, January 16, 2012 America Online: Edgammill

Daniel J. Knickrehm
43 AG Historian
(210) 394-3396
DSN 424-3396

-----Original Message-----

From: Edgammill@aol.com [mailto:Edgammill@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:17 PM
To: KNICKREHM, DANIEL J GS-11 USAF AMC 43 AG/HO
Subject: 43rd Air Lift Group?

Daniel, I am writing the newsletter for our Association. Our new President, Robert Richardson, who attended your function, when you had a name change. In his report, he indicated that the 43rd Air Lift Group was deactivated. I thought that it was only a name change and the new Group wished to establish a firm attachment to the 43rd Bomb Group and there would be continuation of the Air Lift Group.

Please give me the status of the 43rd Air Lift Group. I do not wish to use "deactivated" for I think you remain active.

Ed

Lineage and Honors History
of the
43 Airlift Group (AMC)

Lineage. Established as 43 Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 Nov 1940. Activated on 15 Jan 1941. Redesignated 43 Bombardment Group, Heavy, on 21 Sep 1943. Inactivated on 29 Apr 1946. Redesignated 43 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, and activated, on 1 Oct 1946. Redesignated 43 Bombardment Group, Medium, on 2 Jul 1948. Inactivated on 16 Jun 1952. Redesignated 43 Operations Group, and activated, on 1 Jun 1992. Inactivated on 1 Jul 1994. Activated on 1 Apr 1997. Redesignated 43 Airlift Group 1 Mar 2011

Assignments. General Headquarters, Air Force (later, Air Force Combat Command), 15 Jan 1941; Northeast Air District (later, 1 Air Force), Jan 1941; I Bomber Command, c. 5 Sep 1941; United States Army Forces in Australia, c. 28 Mar 1942; Allied Air Forces, Southwest Pacific Areas, 18 Apr 1942; Fifth Air Force, 3 Sep 1942; V Bomber Command, 5 Sep 1942; Far East Air Forces, 3 Dec 1945-29 Apr 1946. Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 1946; Eighth Air Force, 19 Nov 1946; 43 Bombardment Wing, 17 Nov 1947-16 Jun 1952 (attached to 3 Air Division, 16 Aug-16 Nov 1949). 43 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jun 1992-1 Jul 1994. 43 Airlift Wing, 1 Apr 1997-1 Mar 2011. U.S. Air Force Expeditionary Center 1 Mar 2011 to present.

Operational Components. *Squadrons.* **2** Airlift: 1 Apr 1997-. **2** Air Refueling: attached 1 Jul 1949-16 Sep 1950. **41** Airlift: 1 Apr 1997-5 Apr 2007. **28** Air Refueling: 1 Jun 1992-15 May 1994. **43** Air Refueling: 19 Jul 1948-16 Jun 1952 (detached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952). **63** Bombardment: 15 Jan 1941-29 Apr 1946; 1 Oct 1946-16 Jun 1952 (detached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952). **64** Bombardment: 15 Jan 1941-29 Apr 1946;

1 Oct 1946-16 Jun 1952 (detached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952). **65** Bombardment: 15 Jan 1941-29 Apr 1946; 1 Oct 1946-16 Jun 1952 (detached 10 Feb 1951-16 Jun 1952). **91** Air Refueling: 1 Jun 1992-1 Jul 1994. **97** Air Refueling: 1 Oct 1992-1 Apr 1994. **307** Air Refueling: attached 16 Sep 1950-9 Feb 1951. **350** Air Refueling: 1 Oct 1993-1 Jul 1994. **403** Bombardment: 15 Jan 1941-29 Apr 1946. **905** Air Refueling: 1 Jul-1 Oct 1993. **906** Air Refueling: 1 Jun 1992-30 Jan 1994. **917** Air Refueling: 1 Oct 1993-1 Jul 1994.

Stations. Langley Field, VA, 15 Jan 1941; Bangor, ME, 28 Aug 1941-17 Feb 1942; Sydney, Australia, 28 Mar 1942; Torrens Creek, Australia, c. 1 Aug 1942; Port Moresby, New Guinea, 14 Sep 1942; Dobodura, New Guinea, 10 Dec 1943; Nadzab, New Guinea, 4 Mar 1944; Owi, Schouten Islands, 2 Jul 1944; Tacloban, Leyte, c. 15 Nov 1944; Clark Field, Luzon, 16 Mar 1945; Ie Shima, 26 Jul 1945; Ft William McKinley, Luzon, 10 Dec 1945-29 Apr 1946. Davis-Monthan Field (later AFB), AZ, 1 Oct 1946-16 Jun 1952 (deployed at RAF Station Marham, England, 16 Aug-16 Nov 1949). Malmstrom AFB, MT, 1 Jun 1992-1 Jul 1994. Pope AFB, NC, 1 Apr 1997-1 Mar 2011. Pope Field, Fort Bragg NC 1 Mar 2011 to present.

Commanders. Lt Col Harold D. Smith, 15 Jan 1941; Lt Col Francis B. Valentine, 1 Mar 1941; Maj Conrad H. Diehl Jr., 18 Feb 1942; Col Roger M. Ramey, 21 Oct 1942; Lt Col John A. Roberts, 30 Mar 1943; Col Harry J. Hawthorne, 24 May 1943; Lt Col Edward W. Scott Jr., 18 Nov 1943; Col Harry J. Hawthorne, 8 Feb 1944; Col James T. Pettus Jr., 18 Sep 1944; Maj Paul B. Hansen, 8 Sep 1945-unkn. Col James C. Selser Jr., 5 Oct 1946; Col William E. Eubank Jr., Apr 1948; Col Dalene E. Bailey, Jul 1948; Col Alvan N. Moore, 3 Jan 1949-16 Jun 1952. Col Larry L. Evanoff, 1 Jun 1992; Col Kenneth

it conducted raids against airfields and railways in Japan and against shipping in the Inland Sea and the Sea of Japan. Moved on paper to the Philippines in Dec 1945 and inactivated in Apr 1946. During the next period of activation, between Oct 1946 and Feb 1951, the group trained and conducted long-range test missions, including the first nonstop flight around the world (26 Feb-2 Mar 1949), accomplished by Capt James G. Gallagher and his crew in a B-50 called "Lucky Lady II". Deployed to England for training, Aug-Nov 1949. Not operational after 10 Feb 1951, with the flying squadrons attached directly to the 43d Wing for operations. Inactivated on 16 Jun 1952. Between Jun 1992 and 1 Jul 1994, the group flew air refueling missions in training exercises. In 1997, assumed an airlift mission. Cooperated with U.S. Army airborne organizations at nearby Fort Bragg, taking part with them in joint training exercises. Crews and aircraft deployed to Europe and later to Southwest Asia to support contingency operations such as enforcement of no-fly zones over Iraq and for expeditionary force rotations. After terrorist attacks on the U.S. on 11 Sep 2001, deployed resources in the global War on Terror.

Service Streamers. None.

Campaign Streamers. *World War II:* Antisubmarine, American Theater; Air Offensive, Japan; China Defensive; Papua; Guadalcanal; Northern Solomons; New Guinea; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines; China Offensive.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None.

Decorations. Distinguished Unit Citations: Papua, [Aug] 1942-23 Jan 1943; Bismarck Sea, 2-4 Mar 1943. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jun 1992-30 Jun 1993; 1 Jul

Mills, by Dec 1993-1 Jul 1994. Col Gordon M. Ettenson, 1 Apr 1997; Col Jimmie L. Simmons Jr., 30 Apr 1999; Col Alexander M. McDowell, 11 Apr 2001; Col Gerald E. Szpila, Aug 2004; Col Michael E. Thornton, 21 Jun 2006- 28 July 2008; Col Donald F. Kimminau, 29 July 2008- 6 July 2010; Col Paul M. Kucharek, 7 July 2010 to present

Aircraft. B-17, 1941-1942, 1942-1943; B-18, 1941; B-25, 1941; PT-17, 1941; A-29, 1941; LB-30, 1941; B-24, 1943-1946. B-29, 1946-1948; B-50, 1948-1951. KC-135, 1992-1994; C-12, 1994. C-130, 1997-2008.

Operations. Trained for bombardment operations during most of 1941. From Dec 1941-Feb 1942, flew antisubmarine patrols along New England coast. Moved to Southwest Pacific via Capetown, South Africa, Feb-Mar 1942. Attacked Japanese shipping in the Netherlands East Indies and the Bismarck Archipelago from bases in Australia, New Guinea, and Owi Island between Aug 1942 and Nov 1944. Earned a DUC for missions over Papua, New Guinea from Aug 1942-Jan 1943. Used skip bombing to sink Japanese ships during the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, 2-4 Mar 1943, for which the unit earned a second DUC. Provided support for ground forces on New Guinea and attacked airfields and other enemy installations in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, Yap, Palau, and the southern Philippines in 1943 and 1944. The group conducted long-range raids on oil refineries on Ceram and Borneo late in the war. After moving to the Philippines in Nov 1944, the group attacked shipping along the Asiatic coast and struck factories, airfields, and other installations in China and on Formosa. Supported ground forces on Luzon. The unit moved to Ie Shima in Jul 1945, from which

1998-30 Jun 2000; 1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2002; 1 Jul 2002-31 May 2004; 1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006; 1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WW II).

Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through 20 Jun 2008.

Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through 3 Jun 2008.

Supersedes statement prepared on 1 Jun 2005.

Emblem. Group will use the Wing emblem with Group designation in the scroll.

Prepared by Patsy Robertson.

Reviewed by Daniel Haulman.

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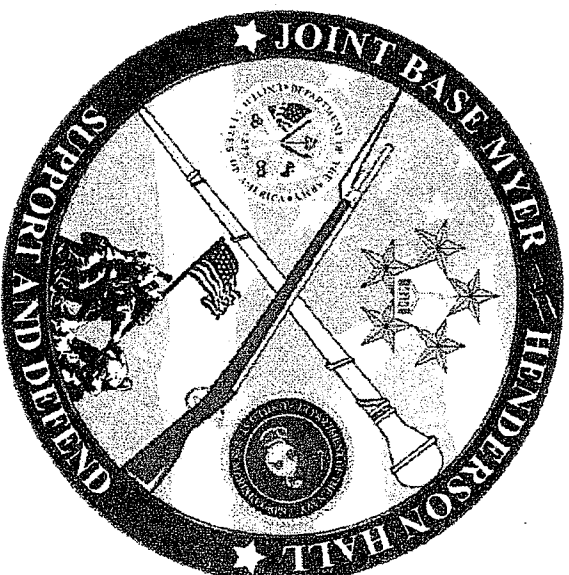
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TO CARE FOR HIM WHO SHALL HAVE
BORN THE BATTLE, AND FOR HIS WIDOW
AND HIS ORPHAN...

Abraham Lincoln



World War II
B-17E Crew

September 21, 2011
10:45 am

Chaplain John Sneed
Chaplain John Gabriel

Old Post Chapel
204 Lee Avenue
Fort Myer, VA 22211

Chapel Service

Prelude	Organist
Hymn	Organist
Invocation	CH Sneed
Welcome	CH Sneed
Eulogy	CH Sneed
Hymn of Meditation	Organist
Homily	CH Gabriel
Closing Prayer	CH Gabriel
Hymn	Organist
Postlude	Organist
Graveside Committal and Honors	
Welcome	CH Gabriel
Scripture Reading	CH Gabriel
Committal	CH Gabriel
Reading of Names	CH Sneed
Honors	CH Sneed

1Lt William J. Sarsfield, Jr.
1Lt Francis G. Peattie
TSGT Robert L. Christopherson
SSgt Henry Garcia

1Lt Charles E. Tringham,
2d Lt Herman H. Knott
TSGT Leonard A. Gionet,
SSgt Robert E. Griebel,
SSgt Pace P. Payne

World War II B-17E Crew

1st Lt Sarsfield Group

On 26 June 1943 First Lieutenant William J. Sarsfield, Jr., and Second Lieutenant Charles E. Tringham were the pilots of a B-17E Flying Fortress—tail number [4]12430—that departed Dobodura, New Guinea, on a bombing mission over Rabaul, New Britain Island.

Also manifested on board were:

2d Lt Jose L. Holguin, 2d Lt Herman H. Knott,
 2d Lt Francis G. Peattie, TSGT Robert L. Christopherson,
 TSGT Leonard A. Gionet, SSgt Henry Garcia,
 SSgt Robert E. Griebel, SSgt Pace P. Payne

While over the target, the aircraft—nicknamed naughtily but nice—was damaged by anti-aircraft fire; the aircraft was having difficulty maintaining altitude on its return leg when it was attacked and shot down by Japanese fighter aircraft.

The navigator—Second Lieutenant Holguin—was able to parachute from the aircraft before it crashed. The other nine crewmen died in the crash. The loss was designated Missing Air Crew Report (MACR) 14590.

In April 1949 U.S. military personnel on New Guinea were led by indigenous personnel to a B-17 crash site on New Britain Island. The team recovered human remains that subsequently were transferred to Hawaii where they were interred as Unknown Remains in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Additional recoveries were conducted at the impact site between 1984 and 2001. The teams recovered human remains and relevant non-biological material evidence found amid the debris field.

Their sacrifice, and the honor with which these men lived their lives, will never be forgotten.

Thomas E. Dow

Thomas E. Dow, 55, of Asheboro, N.C., formerly of Acton, died on December 8th, 2011 surrounded by loved ones after a long battle with cancer. Tom was a native of Acton, and graduated from the Acton-Boxboro Regional High School in 1974. After graduation he entered the Navy where he served as a communication specialist on various vessels within the Mediterranean and Atlantic Ocean. After serving in the Navy, Tom worked as a Regional Project Manager in communications for the Digital Equipment Corporation in Maynard, MA and later in the Greensboro / Winston-Salem area of North Carolina. Recently he worked as a manager of Staples in Asheboro, N.C. A great lover of the outdoors, one of his favorite past times was coordinating outdoor music festivals. He enjoyed Blue Grass music and spent much free time searching for and collecting arrowheads. Tom is survived by his mother, Irene Dow of Brunswick, Maine formerly of Acton and the late Russell E. Dow of Acton. He is also survived by four brothers and their families; Russell and Debi Dow of Portland, Oregon; James and Elaine Dow of Brunswick, Maine; Robert and Lynda Dow of Sterling, MA; and Kenneth and Gail Dow of Acton, MA, as well as many nieces and nephews. Tom's kind nature and great sense of humor will be greatly missed. A private family service is planned.

U.S. officials identify remains of 11 missing WW II airmen

(CNN) – The U.S. Department of Defense on Thursday identified remains discovered in the South Pacific seven years ago as those of 11 airmen who had been missing since World War II.

The remains of Army Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles A. Bode of Baltimore are to be buried Friday at Arlington National Cemetery. Bode was 23 when he was declared missing. A second burial service for the remaining 10 servicemen is scheduled to take place at the same site March 24.

The 11 servicemen had been missing since November 20, 1943, after the crew's B-24D Liberator left an airbase in Port Moresby, New Guinea. The crew was 20 miles north of the airfield when ground control lost contact with the plane.

Searches for the craft and its crew were unsuccessful, and in 1949, the missing servicemen were declared unrecoverable.

In 1984, U.S. officials were notified of the discovery of a World War II crash site in a ravine in the Morobe Province of Papua New Guinea. However, the threat of landslides prevented the recovery of the craft and remains. Twenty years later, search teams obtained human remains collected by local villagers.

The other crew members whose remains have been identified are: 1st Lt. Richard T. Heuss, 23, of Berkley, Michigan; 2nd Lt. Robert A. Miller, 22, of Memphis, Tennessee; 2nd Lt. Edward R. French, 23, of Erie, Pennsylvania; 2nd Lt. Robert R. Streckenbach Jr., 21, of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Tech. Sgt. Lucian I. Oliver, Jr., 23, of Memphis; Staff Sgt. Ivan O. Kirkpatrick, 36, of Whittier, California; Staff Sgt. William K. Musgrave, 24, of Hutsonville, Illinois; Staff Sgt. James T. Moran, 21, of Sloatsburg, New York; Staff Sgt. James B. Moore, 21, of Woburn, Massachusetts; and Staff Sgt. Roy Surabian, 24, of Medford, Massachusetts.