

Nov. 1984

14TH
14th Edition - 63rd, 64th, 65th, 403rd, Hdqs Squadrons - November 1984

Holiday greetings to all 43rd members from your outgoing chairman, BOB TLER and wife DORIS. You will observe that I skipped 13th edition to preserve my previous good luck, and since this is my last newsletter, I need all the luck I can get. Since I have been receiving letters, phone calls, pictures and gifts, my work for the 43rd, the best Bomb Group in the AF has been amply rewarded.

1984 REUNION

Held in Arlington, VA. on October 28th, this was probably our best attended reunion. I suppose the happiest time is arrival and registration, mass confusion, but everyone seemed in a good mood at seeing old friends and settling down for the weekend. Doing yeoman duty at the registration desk, were LLOYD BOREN, ANDY ANDERSON, HERB TOTTEN, and my youngest son, JOHN BUTLER. It looked like the hotel had too much wine at registration, but here are the consumption figures - 78 bottles of red and white wine, 163 sodas and 10 gallons of coffee. Near the registration desk with memento items for sale to raise funds, were FRED CHEVURANT with caps, DON BAKER with 5th AF Buttons, and LLOYD BOREN with decals. All of these efforts are greatly appreciated. An alphabetical list of those members attending follows. There were also many guests in addition.

Sqd	Name				
64	ADAMS. DAVID	63	ALEXALPOULOS, MANUEL	HQS	ALPE. LOU
64	AHERN. JOHN	63	ANDERSON, DAVID	403	ANDERSON, GEORGE
64	ANDERSON, HOWARD	63	ANDERSON, LLOYD	NA	ANDERSON, RICHARD
403	ANDRES, HERB	64	ANGEMEIR, CLETUS	403	APPLE. JACK
403	AXELSEN, MAX	63	ASHBAUGH, GALERD		
65	BACON. LAYTON	65	BAKER, DON	63	BANCROFT. HARVEY
64	BARBER, PHIL	64	BARBUS, PAUL	403	BATSON, STEVE
403	BEDNARSKI. WILLIAM	64	BEAUDEAN, BOB	64	BELL, ED
65	BELLOWS, CHARLIE	403	BILL, WALTER	63	BISHOP, EARLE
63	BLAIR, FRED	64	BLOUNT. STEVE	65	BOREN, LLOYD
64	BRECHT. HAL	NA	BRENNEMAN, MARCIA	403	BRADLEY. HARRY
65	BRITTON, J.T.	65	BRUNE, HERBERT	64	BROWN, JOHN
63	BURHOE, GEORGE	64	BURNETT. RUSS	63	BUTLER, BOB
63	CHEUVRONT. FRED	HDQ	CARTER, GEORGE	63	CARP. AL
64	CHEPULIS, JOE	403	COBER, PAUL	403	COLE, CHARLES
65	COOKE. FRED	64	COULTER, O.K.	403	COWEN, WES
HDQ	CUTLER. ROBERT				
64	DALY. JIM	65	DAMERON, BEN	63	DALZEIL, HARRY
63	DE ANGELIS, TONY	65	DE CESARE, JOE	HDQ	DE MARIO, ROBERT
63	DENEGAN, MIKE	63	DIEFFENDERFER, JIMMY	63	DONNER, HAROLD
63	DUKES, MIRON	63	DITZ, BILL	403	DURBECK, ARTHUR
403	EDWARDS. BILL	63	EDWARDS. RUSS	403	EDGETT, GENE
63	EOFF, TED	65	ENO. CLEVE		
403	FAIRBANKS. NEIL	63	FISCHER, AL	403	FRISBY, BUFORD
65	FURIO, ROMEO				
64	GIFFORD. FALENOR	64	GOODWIN, ROBERT	63	GREENFIELD, ROBERT
63	GRIVOIS, CLIFF				
64	HAAS. AL	65	HANLON, JOHN	63	HARCLERODE. ALDEN
65	HARCROW, JIM	64	HAUSER, JIM	65	HAYDEN, HARLEY
65	HAYDEN, KEN	65	HEWITT, ROBERT	63	HESS, CHARLES
HDQ	HIMES, HUGH	64	HOFFECKER, PHIL	63	HOOD, VERLIN
63	HOOVER, BILL	63	HOWARD. RICH	63	HUSTAD, CARL
63	HUTTINGER, WALT				
HDQ	IAMPIETRO. TONY				
64	JAMES. E. HENRY	65	JAMISON, TOM	64	JANCOSKO, JOE
64	JASINO. TED	65	JOHNS, VANCE	63	JOHNSON, E. J.
63	JONES, HUGH	UK	JOSEPH, ED	64	JUOPPERI, GEORGE

65 KAHLER, HAROLD	403 KAYLOR, PAUL	403 KEHR, WADE
65 KELLY, RICHARD	64 KETTLESON, ROGER	403 KITCHURA, WALT
HDQ KIRSCHNER, M. S.	403 KONAPA, LUCIAN	
63 LAIRD, BILL	64 LANGE, EMIL	65 LAWSON, ELDEN "BUD"
64 LE CLAIRE, A. B.	403 LEE, SID	65 LEWIS, HENRY
403 LOUGHREY, LELAND	63 LUTZ, ARTHUR	
403 MARDER, HY	65 MASIK, JOHN	64 MATHIESEN, GEORGE
HDQ MC ALISTER, FRED	65 MC CLURE, JAMES	63 MC FADIN, CLARENCE
63 MERZ, RAYMOND	64 MC LARTY, ROBERT	HDQ MICHAELS, CYRUS
63 MIKLOS, LOUIS	65 MILLER, CLIFFORD	HDQ MILLER, ROBERT
403 MORGAN, LLOYD	UK MORIN, BEN	64 MINNICK, GARRETT
403 MROWINCKI, RICHARD	64 MULLIGAN, ARTHUR	63 MURPHY, JAMES
HDQ NANCE, BILL	63 NUNEZ, CHARLES	63 NEWMAN, GERALD
63 NICKEL, FRED		
63 O'MALLEY, MIKE	403 O'REILLEY, JOE	65 OTTINGER, JAMES
63 PARKER, CHARLES	403 PASKVAN, PAUL	63 PERRONE, STEPHEN
HDQ PETTUS, JAMES	65 PIELLUSCH, FRANK	64 PIMPINELLA, FRANK
403 POLECHKO, MIKE	64 PRESTON, JOHN	63 PRIFTI, LOUIS
65 PUKAS, ED.		
64 REAM, GLENN	63 RIVOLI, EVO	64 ROCHE, JOHN
64 RODELLA, JIM	403 ROSS, GREGORY	403 ROTH, BOB
64 SAWYER, CLIFFORD	63 SCAGGS, DON	64 SCHAUWEKKER, WALDO
UK SCHAEFFER, BILL	64 SCHRIEVER, BILL	HDQ SEDERBERG, RUSS
HDQ SHEA, FR THOMAS	65 SHROPSHIRE, J. C.	63 SLANE, KEITH
403 SLONE, CHRIS	403 SNYDER, JERRY	403 SOLOMON, BILL
UK SONNER, LUKE	63 STALEY, HARRY	65 STAMPER, BILL
403 SULLIVAN, ROGER	64 STEVENS, KEN	65 STEWART, CHARLES
403 SYLVIA, ALBERT	65 STENGLEIN, CHUCK	
403 TARKINGTON, WAYNE	64 TASSONI, ART	65 TIPTON, CARL
HDQ TOTTEN, HERB	65 TROCCIA, ED	
403 WALTMAN, LEW	64 WARDELL, ROBERT	64 WATKINS, CHARLEY
63 WATTS, JAMES	64 WAYSSE, FRANK	63 WHITE, GEORGE
63 WILFERT, J. C.	63 WISNIACK, JOE	65 WILSON, BILL
63 WOODS, CHARLES	63 WOODS, RICHARD	
64 YOUNG, JACKSON	64 YOUNG, HARRY	
65 ZEAMER, JAY	63 ZIMMERMAN, KENT	

On Friday night, each Sqdn had a meeting to get better acquainted, discuss business items and future plans. As a member of the 63rd meeting, I can only note that we talked a lot about old times, great stories from JIM MURPHY, HARRY STALEY, BOB GREENFIELD, TONY DE ANGELIS, AL FISCHER and others. Good humor of the old days came from "MICKEY" MIKLOS, FRED BLAIR, D.M. ANDERSON, AND "RADAR" HOOVER. We had such a good time, we didn't spend much time on business.

The Saturday A.M. business meeting was crowded and the Continental breakfast very spare, but much was accomplished. Neil Fairbanks gave a detailed slide program on the proposals for 43rd participation in the 5th AF Memorial. He was assisted by comments from Jim Pettus, our only surviving WW2 Group Commander. There was much discussion on the Memorial location, including supporting an existing one near Mareeba in Australia. The consensus of the Group was to support a 43rd Memorial at Wright-Patterson in Ohio, and cooperation with the Museum located at Port Moresby in New Guinea. Campaigning was done by different members for the next (85) reunion. BOB BEAUDEAN made a good pitch for Bossier City, LA. near Barksdale. LLOYD BOREN for San Antonio, but the winner was OMAHA, NEBRASKA, sponsored by MAX AXELSEN. This should make a good reunion next year, centrally located near SAC Headquarters and surrounded by many of the original 403rd veterans. Next came the reports from the squadron meetings, and

seemed the 403rd and 65th were the only ones who had settled any business, the rest were too busy having a good time. There were two nominations for Chairman. MAX AXELSEN of the 403rd, and GEORGE WHITE of the 63rd. MAX AXELSEN withdrew in favor of GEORGE WHITE, and GEORGE was elected unanimously. Will give a rundown on GEORGE WHITE later.

The ladies were entertained at a breakfast meeting with "Color Me Beautiful" demonstration and door prizes furnished by DORIS BUTLER and "MICKEY" FISCHER.

Saturday afternoon. 210 passengers boarded 3 English doubledeckers for a short "eyefull" tour of Washington DC including the Arlington Cemetery, Lincoln Memorial, and a visit to the Air Space Museum. Others made visits to their congressmen or local friends.

Some 350 members, including wives and guests, joined together for the Saturday night banquet and dance. It was opened by FATHER SHEA'S invocation, and a dramatic moment when LOU "SWIFTY" PRIFTI, though seriously ill, presented his epic poem done by a Voice Of America expert. Then after some delay, the 43rd Banner, a beautiful work of art by HARRY DALZIEL, was unfurled. We used round tables seating 10 persons for better communication, and many joined in the dancing and picture taking. Awards were made later for the best crew attendance and a farewell gift to BOB BUTLER, and to HELEN BOREN for putting up with LLOYD. The crew of KENT ZIMMERMAN, almost complete, won first place for attendance with close runners from the crews of DICK WOOD, ANDY ANDERSON, BOB ROTH, and JIM RPHY.

On Sunday morning, a beautiful and thoughtful Memorial Service was conducted by our Chaplain, FATHER SHEA. The 45 minute service was well attended with some participation by members CYRUS MICHAEL, DORIS and BOB BUTLER, GEORGE CARTER, and DICK WOODS.

After the reunion, some of our members enjoyed tours in Virginia to Williamsburg and other spots.

NEWS ITEMS

Just before the reunion, we learned that HAL WINFREY (65th) has serious respiratory problems preventing him from attending the Fifth AF Memorial Foundation meeting in San Antonio, and of course, the reunion. We wish Hal a good recovery and regret the bad news. Also, a phone call from JAMES BATSCHE (403rd), Ravenna, Ohio. He has retired as Fire Chief of Ravenna and is taking Chemotherapy. We wish him the best and hope some of his 403rd buddies will write him. Also on the injured list is Dr. MILTON "BUD" GUSACK (65th) who suffered a broken leg in a hospital accident. He had to miss the reunion because of a wedding in California, but sent a telegram nominating SWIFTY PRIFTI for 403rd Poet Laureate. E.P. "LUCKY" STEVENS also sent good wishes by wire and furnished some color pictures of the Queen Mary distributed by PHIL HOFFECKER (64th). ROBERT MILLER (Hdq) raffled a copy of "DOWN UNDER", won by CLIFF GRIVOIS (63rd). ED GAMMILL of Phoenix, AZ sent good wishes, he was on business trip to Israel. JAMES GOETZ (Hdq) has written since reunion that he had a visit from JERRY SNYDER (403rd), who also lives in Cincinnati, with a good report on the reunion.

NOTICES

SUSAN SHEEHAN, an associate member, and a staff writer of THE NEW YORKER magazine, is writing a book about a B-24 transport plane that crashed between Port Moresby and Lea on March 22, 1944. All 22 men on board were killed, including Capt. CHARLES RICHARD BARNARD (64th), 43rd BOMB GROUP, who was going to Nadzab to pick up orders to go home. BARNARD was a Bombardier on the crew of BENNIE FRANS. SUSAN is looking for BENNIE FRANS, O-665674, pilot; LEONARD J. OLKOWSKI, O-735101, CO-PILOT; WILLIAM S. MC ARTHUR, 36321400, ENGINEER; HAZLETT J. QUACKENBUSH, 32373953, RADIO; JOHN L. BETTINGER, 38278644, AE; COLTRANCE J. HERRILL, 14053347, AR; WILLIAM H. NELSON, 34353453, G; and WILLIAM H. PAYNE, 66592674, AG. SUSAN is particularly interested in learning the date and details of the mission in which the crew's navigator, JESSIE L. WIDDOWSON, O-437336, was killed. None of the above men are on the 43rd's roster, but she hopes that some who are will have knowledge of their whereabouts and will write her at her home address: SUSAN SHEEHAN, 4505 KLINGLE ST. N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016.

ALBERT CURRY, 1030 Whisperwood, Columbus, GA 31907 has picture of 13th Recon personnel at Langley, VA dated Feb 1, 1941. Anyone interested?

BRUCE HOY and BRIAN BENNETT, whose New Guinea and Rabaul addresses are on roster, would appreciate any WW2 records, diaries, plane numbers, crash info of 43rd. They are both active in locating and preserving crash sites and will take good care of any info forwarded. Hoy is especially grateful to LOUIS LE BLANC, 63rd operations, for copy of "DOWN UNDER", 63rd diary and other documents. They will be used in 5th AF Museum in Papua.

JAMES B. GOETZ, 65th, of 3879 Fulton Grove Rd., Cincinnati, Oh 45245, gave 3 or 4 rolls of film to a fellow in the 65th around Feb 43 for development. He has not seen them to this date. The pictures were taken on the troop ship going over, of battleships, cruisers and carriers in New Caledonia and from the tail gunner position in a B17 from Townsville to Port Moresby.

JAMES T. MC CLURE has sent in a long list of former 43rd members. We need everyone to dig up some of these old buddies

The Boeing Management Assn., Seattle, Washington 98124 has once again issued a invitation to all former B17 Groups to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the B17 at a party on July 26th, 1985. It will be held in Seattle, and will be hosted by the Boeing Mfg Co. Any of you in that area or planning to be in that area will want to attend.

Shortly after the reunion, the 5th AF Memorial Foundation held a meeting in San Antonio to determine the dues, methods of fund raising, priority of monument locations etc. Attending this meeting from the 43rd were, our new Chairman, GEORGE WHITE, MAX AXELSEN, NEIL FAIRBANKS and LLOYD BOREN. After quite a bit of debate, it was decided to plan and work towards a monument at Wright-Patterson immediately, and take a hard look at overseas sites later. The dues were established at \$150.00 per Group or unit which GEORGE WHITE was instrumental in pushing through (they were trying to get 1.00 to 2.00 per member which would have left us bankrupt). They decided on a charge of 2.00 yearly for individual members within the group on a voluntary basis. For those who wish to join the Foundation, you may either send your money to the 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 764, Columbus, South Carolina 28722, or to Lloyd (make sure it is earmarked for the foundation). The foundation is tax exempt so anything you send will be tax deductible.

43rd dues for 1985 are due now (\$10.00) for those of you who did not pay at the reunion. While we have a fairly good sized membership, no more than 20% send dues, and if it weren't for a handful of solid supporters who give much more than their share, we would be broke. Our heaviest expense outside the initial advances for the reunion is the newsletters. We have been getting out about 3 newsletters per year with 2 of these containing the roster. Since the roster editions are the most expensive, we are going to have to limit the roster to those members whose dues are paid up. We will continue the newsletter to everyone.

From LLOYD - I have purposely delayed this newsletter two weeks in order to give you the results of a meeting in Omaha with a Nebraska delegation attended by GEORGE WHITE, MAX AXELSEN and myself to decide on a date and place to hold the reunion for 1985. Attending the meeting and offering their help in Omaha were DAVE ADAMS, DALE BARR, JACK RUSMISEL and DICK BELL. It was decided to hold the reunion at the Best Western NEW TOWER INN which hosted the 19th Bomb Group so well several months ago. The facilities are excellent, the location perfect, the hospitality the greatest, and all the prices are right. Date- last weekend in August 85. More about this in upcoming news letters. I helped MAX drive a 2 ton U-Haul Van loaded with furniture back from Omaha to San Antonio, driving straight through. I know MAX will agree, this is not the way to see the USA.

SETTING IT STRAIGHT

Since the 403rd comprises the largest group of members in the 43rd, a few corrections need to be brought out. This then is the outline of the 403rd which was largely made up of Nebraska men, and as I understand, we don't have even 20% of the Nebraska men on our rolls.

The 13th Recon Sqd was part of the 43rd even at Bangor, Maine. The Squadron

signation was changed to the 403rd on April 16, 1942. The 13th squadron's ground echelon left Bangor in Jan 42 to meet at Fort Dix, NJ 150 trained mechanics who had just graduated from Sheppard Field, TX. What they actually met were 150 raw recruits with about 18 days service from Nebraska & nearby. Capt RLES. Commanding, and his "rag tag" squadron then proceeded to sail from the Brooklyn Army Transport Pier in Jan 42 and arrived in Melbourne, Australia in Feb 42, thus making them a part of the first group of American troops to land in Australia after Pearl Harbor. The 13th (later the 403rd) sailed on the USS Argentina, a cruise ship which had been taken out of service, stripped and made available for troop movements. The 13th was then sent to an Aussie Air Base outside Melbourne where they finally received some experience working on the 19th's planes that landed there for repairs. After spending several months there waiting for their combat crews to arrive, they proceeded north to Mareeba to meet them in the summer of 42 as the 403rd Squadron of the 43rd Bomb Group, and joined with the 63rd, 64th, 65th squadrons at Port Moresby in the latter part of 42 at Seven Mile Strip.

(note - - neither DALE BARR, who was kind enough to supply this brief history, nor myself are positive about the dates. if you have more detail, let me know. Lloyd)

DEATHS

JIS M. PRIFTI (63rd) died on Nov 12, 1984 at Arlington, VA. He was 70 years old but til the end, young in heart. Best remembered as "SWIFTY" in the early days in New Guinea. he was the ball turret gunner on Murphy's crew. He was a real "spark plug" to the whole 63rd sqd. and even managed to go on the mission when CARL HUSTAD dropped bombs on the volcano at Rabaul. After many low level missions with MURPHY, SWIFTY returned to the States for duty in war bond sales, retrained as a navigator, and flew B24 missions in Italy. While there, he had the sad experience. in his native Albania, to discover the cruel fate of his parents and family, victims of Nazi reprisal. After the war, he had a long career with the Voice of America as writer and director, and after retirement became active in our efforts to establish the 43rd reunion. A brave and true soldier in spirit and in deed, he was a source of pride to all who knew him. He is survived by his wife. Evangeline. a son Michael, and daughter Joanne. Memorials may be made to St. John's Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church, 5 Franklin Plaza. Philadelphia, Pa 19103.

HAMILTON GILLETTE SUDLER died Nov 10, 1984. During WW2 he was a crew chief in the 65th Sqd. An early member, he sailed on the QM in 1942 and after the war founded his own air cond. business. He was 67 years of age and is survived by his wife Lydia, a daughter Ann. and a grandson Matthew. Memorials may be sent to Upper Springfield Cemetery, % Alice Croshaw, Box 743, Wrightstown. New Jersey 0562.

FUTURE PLANS

As previously noted, the 1985 reunion will be in Omaha, Nebraska. The new Chairman, GEORGE WHITE. is working with BOREN, AXELSEN and others to make plans for a good meeting.

DUES for future operations should be mailed to LLOYD BOREN, SECTY-TREAS, 102 BEECHWOOD, UNIVERSAL CITY, TX 78148. He will forward news items to Chairman WHITE for 1985 newsletters. We are lucky to have GEORGE and LLOYD to lead us. GEORGE WHITE is a retired VP of Metropolitan Life in New York, a veteran of the 403rd and 63rd missions. two of which resulted in ditching of B17's. He was seriously injured in one of these ditches. but recovered after 6 months to continue flying. Please give your best support to LLOYD & GEORGE as we move forward in our reunion roundup of missing members, active participation and preservation of our great history of a great group.

A WORD OF THANKS

Since starting the 43rd roundup in 1981, my fondest hopes have been realized. we have grown in numbers to 758 members and are getting better organized. You don't need to thank me for my time involved in this effort, because it has been a labor of love and the response and assistance by others has been reward enough. From the very beginning, support has been unqualified, financially and otherwise, because, I think, we are all proud of our service in the 43rd and before we get too old, we all want to re-live some of those momentous days of 42 years ago. Just to see an old friend and to meet members of the other Squadrons

of the 43rd is program enough for any reunion and my only regret is that the meetings are so brief and busy, there is never enough time to really talk. My deepest thanks are extended to all, especially my dear wife DORIS (she was still in high school in 1944) for supporting our efforts. We will stay active in 43rd events. and the Welcome Mat is out at 511 Forest Lake Rd. Fayetteville, NC (right on I-95) for room and board as you go north, south, east or west. Just bring your momentos and girl friend and we will furnish the rest. It has been a real pleasure to work with all of you.

Happy Holidays to all - See you in Seattle. and later in Omaha.

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