

SEPT. 1986

# 43rd BOMB GROUP



# ASSOCIATION

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43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

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21st Edition - 63rd, 64th, 65th, 403rd, Hdqs Squadrons - September 1986

## FROM GEORGE WHITE

This will be the last newsletter before our Oct 8-12 reunion at San Antonio. If you haven't yet made your plans, refer to the hotel and registration information in the June newsletter. Make your hotel and plane reservations today. The sooner you make your plane reservations the better your chances of getting the lowest economy fare.

DON BAKER, 65th, Alvin, TX, sent in a very interesting article about the history of Fort Drum located on El Fraile, a less than one acre island in the entrance of Manila Bay. The jagged rock was reduced to sea level and a concrete battleship was constructed on the rock base. Started in 1909, and completed in 1918, it mounted four 14-inch Model 1909 guns, two in each turret. The upper turret could traverse a full 360 degrees. The lower was limited to 230 degrees. With a 15 degree elevation. They had a maximum range of 19,200 yards. Complementing the big guns were two two-gun six-inch batteries with a range of 10,200 yards. Fort Drum was manned by about 200 men of Battery E, 59th Coast Artillery Regiment and a detachment of 13 men from the 4th Marines on Corregidor to man two 50-caliber antiaircraft machine guns. The Fort was in constant action from the start of the war until May 1942 when Corregidor fell and General Wainwright was forced to order Fort Drum to surrender. The Fort was retaken in April 1945 and DON BAKER recalls that his plane successfully hit the Fort with at least one of the two 1,000 lb bombs they were carrying. If anyone wants more info on this, DON is the guy that will be selling reunion caps and 43rd Group buttons at San Antonio.

DR. CHESTER "CHET" Kennedy, a 65th Co-Pilot from Conway, AR wants help in locating his Pilot, GLEN LEWIS who was from the Salt Lake City area, also Navigator, DON THOMPSON, and Bombardier CHARLIE COLLIER.

We are pleased to tell you that in spite of a couple of leg operations, our former Group Commander, JIM PETTUS is coming to the reunion all the way from Honolulu.

HOWARD SPILLYARDS, 65th, Pine Bluff, AR. went to work and tracked down a 64th Pilot JOHN R. COLLIER for the benefit of JACK MATISOFF, 64th, Huntington Beach, CA. Unfortunately, JOHN is quite disabled and not able to travel. He would welcome letters from old friends. Write to him at Arkansas Nursing Home, 4115 W. 16th, Little Rock, AR. 72204. HOWARD and his wife made a 14 day trip to Australia in March.

HUGH HIMES, Hdqs, Cheyenne, WY. is looking forward to the reunion so he can get together with his old tent buddy, BOB CUTLER, Hdqs, South Braintree, Mass. BOB is going to try to put together an article about his life in the 43rd starting with Langley Field and ending with his termination of service. Everyone of us should do the same thing for the benefit of the Group and our families.

Nice letter to our faithful Secty & Treasurer LLOYD BOREN, 65th, San Antonio, TX. from JOHN ROCHE, 64th, New Haven, Conn. thanking LLOYD for the good work he does for the Group. JOHN and his wife GENEVIEVE plan to arrive at San Antonio a day or two early in order to have more time to spend with old friends and meet new ones.

MAX OSBORN, 65th, Cheyenne, WY. did not get to the Omaha reunion so he has promised to bring to San Antonio some excellent slides taken on a trip to New Guinea. In this connection, we encourage everyone to bring slides or pictures taken on trips back to Australia, New Guinea, Owi, and the Philippines. In addition, we plan to have a VCR setup in our Memorabilia room for the showing of any tapes of interest.

On a recent trip to Florida, JOE JANKOSKO, 64th, Pittsburg, PA. visited JOHN PRESTON, 64th, Lake Placid, FL. JOHN is recuperating from a heart attack so he won't get to our reunion this year.

J.C. "CHUNKY" WILFERT, 63rd, Crowley, LA. is going to take just enough time off from fishing and dove hunting to be with us at San Antonio. Bring your rod CHUNKY, the El Tropicano hotel is right on the San Antonio River. Also this is a good time to remind all golfers to bring their clubs. Our Reunion Chairman, MAX AXELSEN, 403rd, San Antonio, TX. has scheduled the golf outing for Friday afternoon Oct 10th.

FRED BLAIR, 63rd, NSW, Australia, will be visited by his son in October so he will miss the reunion. (This will be the first one he has missed, I believe). Due to good thinking by FRED, we have arranged for the preparation of a Reunion Picture Book containing pictures of all who attending, and all not attending who have sent in pictures in response to the letter being sent out by REUNIONS WITH CLASS. Please, if you can't make the reunion, send a snapshot of yourself and wife or just yourself, it doesn't cost a dime, and they will include the picture in the book. We have seen their work, and think it is the best deal yet. There is no obligation either on the part of the Group or yourselves to buy a book, but I'll guarantee when you see the book you will want to order one @ \$10.00.

MAXON WOTRING, 403rd, sent in a new address and advised us that DR. WENDELL FREEMAN, 403rd Flight Surgeon, passed away.

In spite of a serious illness in December, ALFRED "SPEEDY" LE CLAIRE, 64th, Denison, Texas hopes to be with us at the reunion.

FRANCIS DENAULT, 63rd, Hollywood, FL. the pilot of 358 Lulu Belle is bringing pictures of crews and ships to San Antonio and would like to see members of his crew. Of the eight names he lists, I can only find three on our roster, CHARLES ANDERSON, Co-Pilot; DAVID ANDERSON, Bombardier; and EDWARD JOHNSON, Engineer. Does anyone know the whereabouts of JOHN RIEMER, CHARLES HUNTER, MARVIN WOLVERTON, MAX SCOGGINS or PHILIP BOSSO. We have a M.D. WOLVERTON in Quincy, Ill. Is one and the same?

RICHARD "WILLIE" WILLIAMS, 403rd, Rapid City, SD. enlisted the help of some of his friends and they have located some more members of the Group.

HARVEY BANCROFT, 63rd, Oneida, NY. can't make it to this years reunion but sent in his dues and a little extra to help the cause.

On one of their trips this summer, BOB and DORIS BUTLER, 63rd, Fayetteville, NC. spent an evening with DOM ANGERAME and his wife, 63rd, Albany, NY. Its about time DOM got to one of our reunions.

In the last newsletter, we asked for more information concerning the mission on which the 380th Bomb Group suffered their first casualty. Following is the answer from our good friend BRUCE HOY. "Have just received the 20th edition of your newsletter, and saw the request for information concerning ROBERT F. HELLER, a 380th pilot who was shot down in a 43rd Bomb Group B-17. Well, the aircraft was B-17E # 41-9244, with the nickname "HONIKUU OK'OLE", and it was shot down on the night of 21 May 1943. The pilot was Major PAUL I. WILLIAMS, and HELLER was an observer. The Co-Pilot's name was 2nd Lt. JOHN S. RIPPY. The only survivor was M/Sgt GORDON R. MANVEL, who ultimately was flown back to the States on 11 March 1944, having evaded capture by the Japanese, and meeting up with an Australian coast-watcher together with several other allied flyers. MANVEL later wrote a book (in collaboration with Quentin Reynolds, I think) called SEVENTY THOUSAND TO ONE. MANVEL was later commissioned into the Air Force as a 2nd Lt, with the serial number 0-888863. Perhaps your Association should see if he can be located. (I am also commencing to relocate another B-17 survivor from Lt WOODWARD'S aircraft, who was captured by the Japanese and released at the end of the war.)". I know you all appreciate as I do all the interesting and helpful information BRUCE gives us in answer to our questions. At San Antonio, I will tell you what he now has and what further information he still needs help with. Contrary to the information we had from Air Force Magazine, BRUCE tells me that the B-17 New Guinea rescue operation has still not been cleared by the Government.

J. T. BRITTON, 65th, Albuquerque, NM. did a lot of traveling this summer, stopping off to visit some of our members including, JAY ZEAMER, 403rd, Booth Bay Harbor, ME., BOB BUTLER, 63rd, Fayetteville, NC., FRED COOKE, and JIM HARCROW, both 65th, and both living in Ft Walton Beach, FL. All these guys will be in San Antonio.

You might recall that MATT HOLOHAN, 64th, Seminole, FL. suggested the appointment of a Photo Coordinator. Members could lend original photos to that person for reproduction and distribution to those who wanted them. MATT has agreed to start the job at San Antonio, expecting that others will pick up the assignment at future reunions and expand the idea. We will set up a table in the River Room (the registration and memorabilia room) for MATT and I hope a few of you will pitch in and help him. Any photos, documents etc. will be logged in to insure return to the owner. To give you an idea of what MATT has in mind, here are a few excerpts from his letter. "There are many photos and snaps that are in the fellows albums or dusty boxes that would surprise and please some others. JOHN BROWN, 64th, Milton, MI. has some interesting group shots, JIM PETTUS has a series of shots showing the Japanese delegation landing at Ie Shima on the way to meet GEN MAC ARTHUR in Manila. There are many photos of BOB HOPE some where. While we were on Owi, he put on a daytime show for the 64th along with JERRY COLONNA, FRANCES LANGFORD, PATTI THOMAS, and LOU ADLER. He met a typical crew and a plane was named "BOB'S HOPE" for the

occasion. I have some crew pictures and some combat photos. In addition to photos, there are general orders, movement orders and special orders that include names and names of next of kin. This is a good source or starting point for locating additions members. Some fellows who cannot make the reunion could mail in what they have and we would make sure they were returned to the owner."

In answer to my request for more stories about Clark Field, MATT tells the following: "I took some equipment from Leyte to Clark Field before our move up there. When I landed on the asphalt strip the control tower was a fighter plane at the end of the runway. He instructed me to make a right turn and taxi back on a dirt road that paralleled the runway to a parking area at the other ends. While taxiing back on that dirt road, my nosewheel sunk in a soft spot and got sideways. While applying power on one side and brakes on the other, I couldn't get that nose wheel to stop plowing and turning me to the right into a steamroller parked between the runway and taxi strip. Would you believe I had to get out and drive the steamroller out of the way. At the parking area I tried my best to miss the stakes with red pennants on them. They looked like some sort of planned construction and were all over. So many they were almost impossible to miss. When I got out, I discovered they were land mines."

Building on MATT'S project, a by-product is the accumulation of source material to assist those interested in writing a history of the Group and perhaps publication in book form. In this collection, I recently purchased a new copy of "THE JOLLY ROGERS", a history of the 90th Bomb Group during world war II. This 212 page 8 1/2 x 11 hard cover book published in 1981 is loaded with pictures and interesting human interest stories of activities in the air and on the ground. I will leave it on MATT'S table at the reunion with the hope that it will inspire some of you to work together in preparing an enjoyable history of the 43rd Bomb Group.

HARRY ELLIS, 65th, Fairless Hills, PA. and I had a good day on August 26th. HARRY had driven about 60 miles to Summit, NJ to try and find his pilot who lived there 45 years ago. He had no luck and stopped in to visit me. We started on last names in the New Jersey phone books, found a sister to learn that 65th Pilot JOE HENSLER lives in Lawrenceville, NJ which is only about 20 miles from HARRY'S house. HARRY saw JOE that same day and also learned the whereabouts of their Flight Engineer so LLOYD will be getting two more names to add to the roster. Can any of you Texans help them locate TOM COLLINS, GLEN HUTCHERSON and ROY SCHOOLEY?

On behalf of both the 43rd Bomb Group and the 19th Bomb Group, FRED COOKE, 65th, Fort Walton Beach, FL. is exploring the possibility of replacing the wooden sign at the Mareeba airstrip with a suitable bronze tablet.

We regret to inform you that WILLIAM BAUDER, 64th, Omaha, NE. died Aug 2, 1986.

It was good to hear from FRED CHEUVRONT, 63rd, Whittier, CA. You all know that for three years, FRED, undertook the chore of ordering and selling reunion caps and turned all the profit over to our association. He wanted to make sure the San Antonio reunion group would arrange for caps this year. The answer is yes. We will have caps and 43rd buttons for sale.

HAROLD CAROTHERS, 63rd, Milton, FL. hopes to get to San Antonio. The last time was 1938 when 3rd Army War Maneuvers were held at Fort Sam Houston when he was in the Infantry. He saw a small flight of B-17s fly over and said "hay that Air Corps is for me."

RUSSEL SEDERBERG, Hdqs, Port Orchard, WA. checks in with a midnight requisition story. He was working in S-2 Intelligence and needed some plywood to post maps on. Major WISS of the noted WISS family that manufactured scissors and surgical instruments came into the office, heard of the need and said "Come on Sarge, I'll get you some plywood". He and I got in his jeep and I don't remember how far we traveled before we came to a large quonset hut. He drove up to the open double doors and a sentry was on duty. No conversation at all, just a salute. We loaded up 1/4" plywood across the hood so high we could just see over the panels. We drove out the other end, a guard saluted the Major and we were on our way back to the office, thanks to two efficient guards.

The July 1986 report of the Fifth Air Force Memorial Foundation indicates that the 43rd Bomb Group is the leading unit contributor. We also have 86 individual members participating. Our unit trustee, NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, Anoka, MN. will bring us up to date at the reunion.

REUNIONS. Last year at Omaha, the majority of those present indicated a preference for annual reunions. On a close vote, San Antonio was selected over Bossier City, LA for the 1986 reunion. Because of that strong showing, BOB BEAUDEAN, 64th, intends to make his third pitch for that site in 1987. Bossier City is three miles east of Shreveport and adjacent to Barksdale AFB. Of course, this does not preclude the consideration of other sites by those that are prepared to assume the responsibility for a reunion in 1987. In addition, it is not too early to think about 1988.

FROM LLOYD

Change your Squadron Rosters as follows;  
LOUIS CORDOGAN from Squadron Unknown to 65th Squadron.  
WALTER E. BILL from 65th Squadron to 403rd Squadron.

Add the following new members to your rosters.  
HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

COL. GROVER SOUTHERLAND  
FORTY 3RD SW/CC  
ANDERSEN AFB, GUAM  
APO 96334, S.F.

403RD SQUADRON

STEWART BLOOMFIELD 401 MORELAND DR. KANSAS CITY, MO 64118	JOHN I. MURPHY #10 PELICAN ISLE FT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301	FRANK KURDILLA 107 PAGE ST. MONESSEN, PA 15062
JOHN R. SCHULTHEIS 1409 S. LELAND AVE. WEST COVINA, CA 91790	KENNETH AHLERSMEYER 1239 CURDES AVE. FORT WAYNE, IN	WAYNE B. CHILCOAT 12345 NARCOOSSEE RD. ORLANDO, FL 32812

63RD SQUADRON

C. O'CONNOR 106 ESTY AVE. MANCHESTER, NH 03104	ROBERT W. BACON 1511 TENNELL RD. PEKIN, IL 61554	WM. E. "BILL" O'BRIEN 25780 MC CALL BLVD. SUN CITY, CA 92381
VIC FRANCO 4309 RIDGECREST DR. COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80907		FRED CHRISTMAS 4401 NORTH 44 ST. PHOENIX, AZ 85018

64TH SQUADRON

ROBERT G. KENNEDY 1986 SPRINGVALE DR. SAN ANTONIO, TX 78227	DR. HUGH CASSIDY 18 ELM DR. THE ISLAND LA PORTE, IN 46350	PHILIP N. ADAMS 2524 ALASKA WEST COVINA, CA 91791
R. E. LYSIEN 243 S. KOSHKONONY RD. EDGERTON, WI 53534	PAUL MC FERRIN 446 E. MARKET ST. WARRENSBURG, MO 64093	CARL CRAMER 1113 FIFTH ST. FAIRFIELD, CA 94533
HANK LASH RT 2 BOX 44 MONTEVALLO, AL 35115	ANTHONY BEEMBOUM 1473 GREENBURY RD. JEFFERSON CITY, MO	HENRY HAWKER RT 32 BOX 19 TERRE HAUTE, IN 47803
GEORGE GANGLER 1805 OXFORD CT. ROSEVILLE, CA 95678		

65TH SQUADRON

JAMES WARREN 152 HICKORY CT. PRINCETON, NJ 08540	JOSEPH HENSLER 16 MARVIN CT. LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ 08648	CLAUDE W. ROBINSON 6-952 TARRSON BLVD. LADY LAKE, FL 32659
JAMES J. CONWAY 1573 OAK GROVE AVE. SAN MARINO, CA 91108	G. A. HUTCHERSON RT 1 BOX 236 LCE MALAKOFF, TX 75148	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

JEANNETTE STRINGFIELD  
RT 3 BOX 167  
SEMINOLE, OK 74868

NOTE !!!!! WE NOW HAVE 946 MEMBERS

### SOME LATE NOTES

TONY IAMPIETRO, Hdqs, Middleboro, MA. will miss this reunion, but sends his best to all. TONY is recovering from major surgery several weeks back and hopes to be with us next year.

GAYLORD VAN ETTEN, 63rd, Indian Harbor Beach, FL. is another who will not be making this years reunion, however, he sends the following ; "As for stories about bombing Clark and Nichols Fields, we were asked to keep the area awake for a four hour period. We would drop a bomb every one half hour. If we didn't recieve opposition, we did figure eights and dropped bottles as they were supposed to howl coming down. We would have been court martialed if we had hit the barracks at Clark. It took three planes to keep the area on alert for 12 hours. Later we were stationed at Clark.

Nice letter from HARRY ELLIS who is excited and happy about locating his crew members as related by GEORGE WHITE earlier. Good luck on locating the rest of them HARRY.

ARNOLD HUSKINS, 65th, Pittsfield, MA. sends the following; "In the Dec. 85 newsletter, GEORGE GREEN, 403rd, Oakland, CA. did some reminiscing about the end of combat flying in the 43rd. On August 6, the day Hiroshima was hit by the big bomb, our crew flew a mission to Kagoshima in southern Kyushu - a long way from Hiroshima. Surprisingly, the 65th crews were never told about Hiroshima. Anyway, whats an Atomic Bomb? On August 9th, the day Nagasaki was hit, we flew a mission to Iwakuni, not too far from Hiroshima, and still had never heard about the big bombs. As we flew up the east coast of Kyushu we looked to the west and saw what we all thought was the biggest fire we had ever seen. Our navigator, HANK LEWIS, took a sighting, and we reported the fire as being at Nagasaki. We flew our last combat mission to Ibusuki, which I can't locate on my map, on August 11, 1945.

We flew our last mission as a crew on August 25. It was a reco flight to assure that the Japanese had lined up all their planes on every air strip as ordered by Mac Arthur. We were warned not to fly over Hiroshima - no reason. Our pilot couldn't see any reason to add more miles and use more gas by going around the city which was right on our course, so we flew directly over the ruins and could hardly believe our eyes. We figured that B-29's and their fire bombs did the damage. As we turned back home, we approached Nagasaki from the northeast and were able to see the destruction of that city. There was a high ridge dividing Nagasaki and on one side was complete ruin while on the other side it looked untouched. It wasn't until we returned to Ie Shima that we heard about the two atomic bombs and the danger we could have been in by flying so close to those targets.

ARNOLD is wanting to locate his pilot, GLENN E. BALES, his engineer, VERLIN G. MITCHENER, and the following gunners, WAYNE W. BOSTED, LUCIUS G. HULBERT, ROBERT B. MC INTOSH, HENRY J. BARTNICK, and MAX E. JOHNS.

A Major M. O. FREEMAN JR., 90th Bomb Group, 5960 Rainbow Drive, San Jose, CA 95129, is attempting to locate a friend from the 63rd Squadron, a Bombardier from the class 43-14, Big Spring. His pilot was Albert J. Goossens. His name is ROBERT L. GORDON, and he was from Savannah, GA. His father was in the Clothing business.

RICHARD WILLIAMS, 403rd, Rapid City, SD. wrote to three former friends from the 403rd, and was able to contact one, whose name he sent in. The other two had unfortunately passed away. DICK sent the names to me so that their friends in the 403rd would be aware of their deaths. They were LEONARD BOGUSH who passed away November of 1978, and RODNEY KLAYER, who passed away September 1983. HELEN KLAYER, RODNEY'S wife, can recall only two names of friends, then Major PETTUS, and PHIL COCHRAN who attended their wedding. I don't show PHIL COCHRAN on our roster, anyone know his whereabouts?

LEROY SPILLYARDS, 65th, Pine Bluff, AR. wrote advising us of the death of MACK DRAKE JR., 65th, Memphis, TN. who had been a friend since High School. MACK passed away on his birthday (68), August 19, 1986.

### REUNION NEWS

With one month to go, there are 185 rooms reserved, and 358 people registered at the Tropicano Hotel. This figure does not include those who are in the vicinity of San Antonio, or those who are staying elsewhere. We hope you are not waiting till the last minute to make your reservations. The room cost is \$48.00 single or double, the address is EL TROPICANO HOTEL, 110 LEXINGTON AVE., SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78206. The cost for the reunion is \$65.00 each sent to LLOYD, and includes all the major events as usual. This is going to be our biggest yet.

43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

PAG

Best regards and see you in San Antonio Oct 8-12,

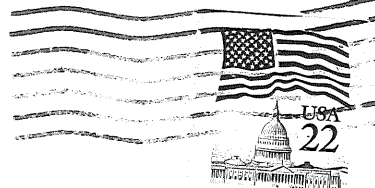
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