

DEC. 1986

43rd BOMB GROUP



ASSOCIATION

- Hds.
- 63rd
- 64th
- 65th
- 403rd

43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

PAGE 1

22nd Edition - 63rd, 64th, 65th, 403rd, Hdqs Squadrons - December 1986

FROM GEORGE WHITE

Chalk up another successful mission by our reunion team headed by MAX AXELSEN, 403rd, and LLOYD BOREN, 65th. A number of letters have come in thanking them for making the San Antonio reunion one of our best. Thanks to DON BAKER, 65th, HERB TOTTEN, 64th, SID and BERNIE LEE, 403rd, KENT and MARTY ZIMMERMAN, 63rd, LARRY DE HAVEN, 64th, DAYTON BLANCHARD, 65th, DAVE HASSEMER, HDQRS, and many more, the registration went smoothly. The Memorabilia room had the largest collection ever of pictures, photo albums, books, articles, old orders and rosters, sparked no doubt, by MATT HOLOHAN'S (64th) picture project. The 43rd Banner featuring the Alamo and the Texas Lone Star Flag prepared by HARRY DALZIEL, 63rd, Valley Stream, NY. was gratefully acknowledged by a round of applause at our Group Meeting.

On Wednesday and Thursday, most of us took the opportunity to meet with old friends. We visited the Alamo, the River Walk, the Market Square, and gorged on that good, hot, Mexican food. We rode the River barge and those old time San Antonio trolleys. Three and four pound bass were breaking all over the river but CHUNKY WILFERT, 63rd, Crowley, LA, a typical 43rd Navigator, couldn't find them.

On Friday we viewed a dress parade at Lackland AFB. Over a thousand Air Force men and women marched to stirring music. The salute was taken by Major General Norma Brown, and the 43rd Bomb Group was given Special mention.

The Golf Tournament got under way in the afternoon with 34 participants. Here are the results:

LOW NET -----	JIM HARCROW
LOW GROSS ----	DUTCH EHLERS
HIGH GROSS ---	BOB BACON
CLOSEST TO PIN	JOHN LANDT
LONGEST DRIVE	RAY REDMON
LONGEST FROM LADIES TEE	DOLLY MILLER

This is the second year in a row that JIM HARCROW's name will be engraved on the 43rd traveling plaque.

Friday evening we all enjoyed the El Tropicano's famous Mini-Mexican-Fiesta. Lots of fun, food and friendly Mariachis' made it a highlight of the reunion. The Saturday night Dinner Dance was held at the Officer's Club at Randolph AFB. Our friend BOB BUTLER, 63rd, Fayetteville, NC, gave a warm tribute to our Group Chaplin, FATHER THOMAS "COACH" SHEA, MAX AXELSEN presented the Golf awards, and EILEEN and BOB GOODWIN, 64th, Kewanee, IL, received a Mexican hat and scarf for their great dancing at the Fiesta.

The last event of the reunion was the Sunday Brunch at the hotel with everyone saying "Hasta la vista".

At the Saturday morning Group Meeting, the members approved the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the 43rd Bomb Group Association, Inc. The nominating committee chaired by MAX AXELSEN, presented the following slate of Officers and Directors which was unanimously elected by the membership:

PRESIDENT -----	GEORGE WHITE	DIRECTORS 3 YEAR TERM -	ROGER KETTLESON
VICE PRESIDENT -----	BILL WILSON		DALE BARR
SECTY-TREASURER -----	LLOYD BOREN		BOB BUTLER
		2 YEAR TERM -	JIM HARCROW
			ODIS CLEERE
			ART MULLIGAN
		1 YEAR TERM -	CY MICHAELS
			FOLMER SOGAARD
			ROGER VARGAS

FRED COOKE, 65th, Ft Walton Beach, FL, reported on the progress of the joint venture of the 19th and 43rd Groups to erect a small plaque at Mareeba, Australia. The membership authorized a \$500.00 contribution toward this project.

NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, Anoka, MN, gave a status report on the activities of the 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation. We have designated NEIL to another three year term as our Unit Trustee, and we have nominated BOB BUTLER to serve another term as Trustee at Large. NEIL has also agreed to explore the placing of 43rd Memorial Plaques at appropriate sites.

Our good friend BRUCE HOY sent in a questionnaire which we reproduced and distributed to all the members. If you have any information he is seeking, please write to him now before he finalizes his book on the B-17s in the Southwest Pacific Area.

MAX OSBORN, 65th, Cheyenne, WY, showed us his interesting slides taken on a trip to our old stomping grounds in the Pacific.

DICK WOOD, 63rd, Saratoga, CA, told the members about the sixteen day trip to Australia and New Guinea now scheduled to leave from Los Angeles on Saturday April 11, 1987. DICK would like to keep the number of travelers down to thirty five, so if you are thinking about going, or want more information, call him today at work 408-867-3137. This is your once in a lifetime chance to visit a most interesting and scenic part of the world in the company of some of your 43rd friends. DICK is an experienced traveler who has just returned from leading a travel club on a tour of New Zealand and Australia.

BOB ROTH, 403rd, designed and sold 43rd bumper stickers which are very colorful and included the 5th AF emblem. You can obtain them by sending \$1.00 to BOB at 409 W. Olive Ave., Redlands, CA 92373. They also look good on luggage. Also, along this line, there were quite a few caps left over, LLOYD has them on a first come first serve basis. They are \$6.00.

BOSSIER CITY, LA, was selected as the site of the 1987 reunion. It will be held 2-6 September. BOB BEAUDEAN, 64th, is making the arrangements and is being assisted by TROY MC CONNELL, 64th. We will have more details shortly from BOB, then a complete schedule in the next newsletter.

In the September 1986 issue of the newsletter, we included information from BRUCE HOY about a 64th Squadron B-17 that was shot down by a night-fighter over Rabaul on May 21, 1943. The only survivor was M/Sgt GORDON R. MANUEL, the bombardier who bailed out at about 300 ft, landing in the water a few miles off shore. In spite of a broken leg, loss of blood from wounds, and a half inflated Mae West, MANUEL made it to shore. He spent the next eight and a half months living with natives in New Britain. Thanks to DICK HENNIG, 64th, New Carlisle, OH, I have just finished reading "70,000 to 1", the story of Lt. GORDON MANUEL by Quentin Reynolds. This 217 page book printed by Random House in 1946 is a first person account of the mission and MANUEL'S day to day life on the island. LUCKY STEVENS, 64th, Mountain Lakes, NJ, has sent me copies of two letters he received from GORDON'S sister, EVELYN MANUEL who lives in Clearwater, FL. These letters tell us about GORDON MANUEL'S life from his enlistment in May 9, 1941 until his burial in Arlington Cemetery, August 23, 1950. On his last mission, which was his sixty-first, he was a Master Sergeant. GENERAL KENNEY gave him a commission and he was a Captain when he retired on full disability in 1948. I will be happy to send copies of these letters to any of you that request them. Just drop me a postcard or better yet, if you have not yet paid your \$10.00 dues which were due Oct 1, 1986, make the request to Lloyd when you send him your check. He will send your request on to me.

LEWIS WHITWORTH, 64th, Miami Lakes, FL, sent in an original photo of the BOB HOPE visit to Owi in 1944. It shows the troupe in front of the B-24, BOB'S HOPE. BOB said that was the name, "because we had trouble keeping the nose down". LEW was a flight engineer and flew in that same plane in the first daylight mission to Mindanao. If you have ever wondered what happened to the B-24, BOB'S HOPE, here is the rest of the story in a letter I just received from MATT HOLOHAN, 64th, Seminole, FL. "George, it was good to see our leader, COL PETTUS, looking so chipper despite his leg problems. He said I took him on the worst ride he ever had. Think of all the guys who could say that about just the landings. He also reminded me of how he exited the plane after our trip to Hong Kong. Because of the attention we were trying to give GEORGE GANGLER, my engineer who was severely wounded, the flight deck was very busy. JIM was also pinged in the leg and was getting pretty antsy about getting out of the co-pilots seat. So he climbed out the window on his side. Bet he couldn't do it again with a power saw. That was the same plane that was christened "BOB'S HOPE" for the show he put on for the 64th on Owi. It never flew again - Class 25 Salvage. Here is a later picture of GEORGE GANGLER with his wife, obviously, he saved that leg. He was recommended for the Silver Star. He continued to fire his guns until the fighters were gone, directed fuel transfer, and carried out his other duties although weak from the loss of blood and lying on his back. "GREAT GUY"

And now about MATT HOLOHAN and what he is doing for this association and what you can do to help him. MATT manned the Photo Table at San Antonio. Some of the members brought to the reunion various orders, documents, dairies etc. all containing many names of those that served in the 43rd. Through these leads, just since the San Antonio reunion, he has located over 50 members

which puts us up to the 1025 mark. Now he is asking for more info from all of us. Send him the names and more importantly, if you have it, the home towns of your tentmates, crew members, section members or any fellows you met over there. He is putting in hours every day on this project - lets all try and help him.

One of MATT'S finds is ARMAND BLAIS, 64th, Auburn, ME. ARMAND was involved in the forming of the 43rd Group at Dow Field. He was in the ordinance section. He can not get to reunions because of disabilities, but sends his fondest regards to all of us.

On the way from San Antonio, JOHN and GENEVIEVE ROCHE, 64th, New Haven, CT, visited BOB and LIL BEAUDEAN, 64th, Bossier City, LA, and got a preview of what BOB has in store for us next fall. They also visited KEN and ADELE STEVENS, 64th, at Grand Rapids, MI.

Another couple that did some visiting after San Antonio were RUSS and JANE BURNETT, 64th, Conway, MA. They saw his pilot, C.T. HOOTEN at Colorado Springs, and toured the ROCK at NORAD. Checked in with SAM DANTE, 65th, Scranton, PA, who was in their wedding 42 years ago, then after getting home, visited with BILL BROWNE, 64th, Charlemont, MA. BILL was a radio operator on B-25s before hooking up with the 64th. He remembers flying with PETTUS, HOLOHAN, and MULLIGAN. He has a picture of his crew standing in front of B-24 No. 429 "The Shining Example" which was probably the only silver B-24 in combat.

ALLEN CLATWORTHY, 63rd, Isleton, CA, recently stumbled across a paperback novel that he thinks would be enjoyed by anyone that flew in B-24s. It tells about a bomber crew stationed in Italy. The title is "Bomber Crew 369" by William C. Anderson. ALLEN picked it up in a B. Dalton book store.

Thanks to FRED BLAIR, 63rd, NSW, Australia, and ELWOOD HISEY, 64th, Midland, TX, we have heard from JOE PETRONIS, 65th, Temple, TX. JOE went over in July 1942, and was a bombardier on B-25s in the 38th B.G. He joined the 43rd when the B-25s were converted to strafers. Before retiring from the 38th Aerospace Wing in 1968, he remembers going to Thule, Greenland on a team investigating a B-52 crash with 4 "nukes" on board. JOE has two sons, RICHARD and JOE, JR. RICHARD is now a major in the National Guard. He served in Vietnam and earned the Bronze Star, Air Medal, and Army Commendation Medal.

RAYMOND GATES, 63rd, West Monroe, LA, wants to know if FRED CHEUVRONT, 63rd, Whittier, CA is the one who flew with him and the following: Lt GREGG, Lt CODY, Lt BOWEN, T/Sgt A.A. ROSATI, T/Sgt CREIGHTON BENNER, S/Sgt STEPHEN KOSCH and S/Sgt WILLIAM A. REESE.

JAMES THOMPSON, JR., 63rd, Tucson, AZ, was in the 43rd from April 1950 - Dec 1952 as an aircraft mechanic on B-50s and B-29s. He was in the 63rd when "Lucky Lady II" crash landed during final approach at Davis-Monthan AFB. This was the B-50 that was the first plane to fly around the world non-stop.

KENT ZIMMERMAN, 63rd, San Antonio, TX, has responded in great detail to the question asked by ERWIN "LES" JOHNSON, 63rd, Rockford, IL. KENT is quite sure he flew as pilot on the first B-32 combat mission with LES as bombardier. KENT put in a lot of B-32 time as pilot, co-pilot and checked out many B-29 aircrews in the B-32.

We regret to advise you that ALFRED K. DRAHER, 403rd, New Philadelphia, OH, died Feb 1, 1986.

We are all pulling for HAL WINFREY, 65th, Stone Mountain, GA, to overcome his illness so he can be with us at the next reunion.

JIM WARREN, 65th, Princeton, N.J., who was located by HARRY ELLIS, 65th, Fairless Hills, PA, was delighted to be found and plans to be at the next reunion. This summer the Confederate Air Force brought a B-17 to Trenton, NJ, and JIM had a great time for four days on four hour shifts explaining how the various controls in the cockpit worked to several hundred visitors. " I was surprised to see how familiar it all was, even after all these years".

As was the case with so many of us, HUGH GLOVER, Alto, GA, was in more than one squadron of the 43rd Group. He went over in a B-24 and flew in B-17s in the 63rd, 64th, and with HQ's of Group. I would like to hear from anyone that flew in four or more squadrons. HUGH flew the last mission on "Capt. & Kids". Can anyone tell him how many missions it had on it? I will bet one florin that BRUCE HOY has the answer.

I had a nice phone conversation with JOE PECORARO, 403rd, Westbury, NY. JOE is still actively at work as an Optician, a natural occupation for a former bombardier. JOE took basic pilot training at Sikeston, MO. in Class 43E and thinks that JAY ZEAMER was a Cadet Officer in the 43D class that kept them on the go. Does he have it right JAY? JOE remembers a visit from SID LEE, 403rd, San Antonio, TX, a few years ago. JOE'S, 403rd pilot was WITTKOPP, who died during the 1950's.

The 43rd Bomb Group Association is one of a very few reunion groups to have a close tie to a current active Air Force organization. I am sure you will remember that on April 1, 1985, DICK WOOD, JIM PETTUS, J. T. BRITTON, AND HENRY JAMES went to Andersen AFB, Guam to attend a formal Dining In, commemorating the 43rd Strategic Wing's 15th Anniversary on Guam. Following is the text of a letter to me dated 20 Nov 1986. "Dear Mr. White, I'm happy to inform you and the members of the 43rd Bomb Group Association that the 43rd Strategic Wing has been re-designated the 43rd Bombardment Wing. Redesignation ceremonies were held on Andersen AFB, Guam on Nov 4. It was a very memorable occasion in the history of our wing and marked a return to a heritage we proudly share with you. The men and women of the 43rd Bombardment Wing continue to uphold the high standards established by you and the other members of the 43rd Bomb Group. I'm enclosing a copy of the base newspaper which highlights the redesignation ceremonies so you can share the moment with us. Sincerely, GROVER R. SOUTHERLAND, COLONEL, USAF, COMMANDER."

The enclosed base newspaper, "TROPIC TOPICS", included the following excerpt from Col. SOUTHERLAND'S address. "The 43rd set the standard, and established our proud heritage with their B-17 missions during World War II. Flying from bases in Australia and New Guinea, and eventually from Clark Field, the Philippines, they targeted railroads, airfields and shipping throughout the Pacific."

On behalf of the Association, I am writing to Col. SOUTHERLAND to thank him for sharing with us his appreciation and acknowledgement of our part in the ongoing glorious history of the United States Air Force. His letter and the Andersen base newsletter will be on display at our Bossier City reunion.

And now a request to all of you camera men. I would like to send to Col. SOUTHERLAND, pictures of the 43rd Reunion Banners HARRY DALZIEL created for each of our reunions and the Boeing B-17 Anniversary Party. So please send to me as soon as possible any good banner shots you took at any of these occasions at the Queen Mary, Virginia, Omaha, San Antonio, and Seattle.

FROM LLOYD

First of all, about the panoramic picture that was made Saturday Morning at the reunion. I know quite a few of you were worried about not receiving it in the mail, so was I. I finally managed to contact the party who took them, and after a little persuasion, he brought all the finished pictures along with the address labels with him to my house, they are to be mailed out by him today, the 22nd, and should reach you before this newsletter. For those of you who did not order one, you will probably be disappointed when you see one at the next reunion, they are terrific, almost 4 ft long. I would like to tell you that you could order one, but I don't think it would be a good idea.

MEMBERS AT THE REUNION

HEADQUARTERS

LOU ALPE, ROBERT DE MARIA, DAVE HASSEMER, HUGH HIMES, J.A. HOLT, WILSON KING, C.F. MC ALISTER JR., JIM PETTUS, FATHER THOMAS SHEA, WILLIAM L. SPENCE, HERB TOTTEN

403RD SQUADRON

BILL AESCHBACHER, P.D. ALEXANDER, GEORGE O. ANDERSON, HERB ANDRESS JR., MAX AXELSEN, DALE BAKER, HAROLD BARRETT, GEORGE BARTA, PAUL BAUER, RICHARD BELL, JOE BEVEL, WALTER BILL, HARRY BRADLEY, BOB BYRNE, ODIS CLEERE, PAUL COBER, DANA DAVIS, WILLIAM EATON, NEIL FAIRBANKS, GEORGE FRAUNFELDER, BELFORD FRISBY, TALBOT GARNER, GENE GORDON, JOE GOSSEAU, BRIAN HASTINGS, WADE KEHR, JUCIAN KONOPA, HAROLD C. JOHNSON, WALTER KICHURA, LAVERNE KINZLER, SID LEE, FRED LLOYD, JOHN MURPHY II, MARTIN MC BEE, GERALD OBERMEYER, PAUL PASKVAN, JOHN PERKINS, MIKE POLECHKO, GREG ROSS, BOB ROTH, RUSS SEDERBERG, GERALD "JERRY" SNYDER, JOE SNYDER, BILL SOLOMAN, JOHN TALLITSCH, WAYNE TARKINGTON, STAN TULIG, HARRY URBAN, JAMES WILLIAMS, RICHARD WILLIAMS.

63RD SQUADRON

JOHN AHERN, ROBERT BACON, TYSON BARNES, KEN BECKSTROM, HOWARD BOOTH, CLIFTON BOWEN, LELAND BRADLEY, GEORGE BURHOE, BOB BUTLER, FRED CHEUVRONT, BILL CHURCH, RAY CRAWFORD, FRANCIS DENAULT, JIM DIEFFENDERFER, HAROLD DONNER, RUSSELL EDWARDS, FRED EPPLON, ALBERT FISCHER, JIMMY HALE, WM "RADAR" HOOVER, RICHARD HOWARD, CARL HUSTED, ZIGMONT JANOWSKI, E. HENRY JAMES, JOHN L. LANDT, RODGER LITTLE, RAYMOND MERZ, LOUIS MIKLOS, SERENUS MITCHELL, HAROLD NEWTON, FRED NICKLE, CHARLIE NUNIZ, CHARLES PARKER, STEVE PERRONE, CHUCK RAUCH, RAY REDMON, R.R. "BOB" RICHARDSON, WILLARD RICKABAUGH, HOWARD ROGERS, FOLMER SOGAARD, ED ST ONGE, ROGER VARGAS, JAMES WATTS, ALBERT WEBBER, J.C. "CHUNKY" WILFERT, CHARLES WOODS, DICK WOODS, KENT ZIMMERMAN.

64TH SQUADRON

ANDY ANDERSON, CLETUS ANGERMEIER, NICK ARABINKO, ROY BAKER, PAUL BARBUS, BOB BEAUDEAN, STEVE BLOUNT, HAROLD BRECHT, KEN BROWN, RUSSELL BURNETT, JOE CHEPULES, LES COFFMAN, ROBERT COOPER, O.K. COULTER, JAMES R. DAY, ARTHUR CURREN, LARRY DE HAVEN, MICHAEL "SLEPKO" DENEGAN, THOMAS DOYLE, JAMES DUANE, MICHAEL EDSALL, NORM FRIEDBERG, FALCNOR GIFFORD, R.E. GOODWIN, ALVIN HALL, CLARANCE RAY HARPER, R. O. HENNIG, MATT HOLOHAN, RAY HOLSEY, GEORGE HUNTER, JOE JANCOSKO, GEORGE

PPERI, ROGER KETTLESON, EMIL LANGE, HANK LASH, ALFRED LECLAIRE, BYRLE MILLER, TROY MC CONNALL, ART MULLIGAN, ALLEN NELSON JR., MARSHALL NELSON, WILLIAM PEAKE, JOHN PICKERING, JOHN ROCHE, JOHN ROCHE, WALDO SCHAUWEKER, BILL SMITH, ART TASSONI, ED TORDOFF, FRANK WAYNE, JACKSON YOUNG.

65TH SQUADRON

LAYTON BACON, DON BAKER, CHARLIE BELLOWS, L.D. BLANCHARD, BREEZY BOREN, FRED COOKE, BEN DAMRON, A.M. DAVID, MYRON DUKES, "DUTCH" EHLERS, ROBERT GANTZER, DON GRAHAM, BUD "DOC" GUSACK, JOHN "PINKY" HANLON, EVERETT HAM JR., JIM HARCROW, HARLEY HAYDEN, HAROLD KAHLER, ELTON LAWSON, HANK LEWIS, DON MARSAGLIA, MAX MAYER, MAX OSBORN, GARNETT PEELING, ED PUKAS, GUS RAPISARDI, EARL RESHAW, CLAUDE SASCHE, CHARLIE STEWART, CLETUS SWEIGARD, ED TROCCIA, BOB VALLANCE.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

MARCIA BRENNEMAN, ROBERT HELMKAY, JACK WOODRUFF.

PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN YOUR ROSTER.

DON GRAHAM from 403rd to 65th Squadron.
 JAY ZEAMER from 403rd to 65th Squadron.
 WALTER BILL from 65th to 403rd Squadron.
 PAUL HOMAN from Sqd Unknown to Headquarters Sqdn.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NEW MEMBERS TO ADD TO YOUR 1986 ROSTER. THE 87 ROSTER WILL BE COMING OUT ALONG WITH THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE NEWSLETTER TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE PAID DUES FOR OCT 86-OCT 87.

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