

# 43rd BOMB GROUP



# ASSOCIATION

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43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

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26th Edition - 63rd, 64th, 65th, 403rd, Hdqs Squadrons - January 1988

## FROM BILL WILSON

It's all been fun up to now, but it's going to be hard to come up to the high standards BOB, BREEZY and GEORGE have set on the newsletter. It's been the best anywhere. Hope I can keep it that way. Had lots of encouragement. Most everyone has asked, "How did you get to be our new C.O.?" Maybe after this letter there will be even more questions.

We had snow in West Texas for Christmas. I guess it was that White Christmas we all wanted some 40 odd years ago. Sure glad we made it. A great day for the Wilsons. Hope yours was too.

DICK HENNIG, 64th, NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, MAX AXELSEN, 403rd, WALDO SCHQUWEKER, 64th, and others are moving along on the Memorial. Hope to get OK and bids in February or early March. Have received about \$1500.00, but need about \$5000.00.

Had a real treat the other day. BILL BOLY, 65th, Murphyboro, IL, sent in a donation on the Memorial. BILL flew with BREEZY, DOC BRYANT, Concord, CA, and me on DUTCH EHLER'S crew. DUTCH lives in San Antonio. Lets all try and get DUTCH'S crew to come to Dayton.

I have ROGER KETTLESON, 64th, Las Vegas, NV, working on the October 1990 reunion. The 5th Air Force is having a big blowout and we may join them. Lets hear some talk for the East Coast in "89". For a fellow from Texas, New England in early October is something else.

Nuncio Bonino, 64th, Philadelphia, PA, reports I can't spell his name correctly. I have trouble spelling cat. Please forgive.

DALE BARR, 403rd, Omaha, NE, our Vice President reports we aren't working him enough. DALE, at our age, we don't seem to get in much vice. (I still try).

RUSS and JANE BURNETT, 64th, Conway, MA, and RUSS and DOT EDWARDS, 63rd, Massillon, OH, are going to Dayton in June to the 5TH A.F. MEMORIAL Dedication. We are trying to have ours ready by that time, although we are planning on a dedication during our reunion. For those of you who would like to make the June ceremony, there will be a form you can cut out and mail to the 5TH AIR FORCE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 764, COLUMBUS, NC 28722. The Official Hotel will be the Dayton Marriott, and the room cost is \$58.00 single or double. There will be a registration fee of \$10.00 or \$15.00. We will try to keep you posted in the April newsletter. For those who cannot attend both the dedication and our reunion, no problem. Our Memorial will be directly across from the 5th Memorial.

FRED BLUMBERG, 64th, Brick, NJ, sends his best to everyone.

Heard from AUSTIN MATTESON, a pilot in the 65th, Portland, OR. AUSTIN, during 1943/44, he was at Seven Mile, Nadzab, Hollandia, Biak & Wadke. AUSTIN, you fellows moved a lot faster than I did. It took almost a year to get to Seven Mile.

FRANK STOLL, 65th, Madison, WI, sent money for our Memorial Fund, Thanks for the help FRANK. If all you guys think this is a plug for more donations, it is. Gosh, even JOHN COOP, 403rd, Australia sent money, and FREDDIE BLAIR, 63rd, of Australia started the fund off in Bossier City. What's the matter with us here.

RICHARD WILLIAMS 403rd, Rapid City, SD, reports the loss of his wife. Let him know we all want him to come to Dayton. I expressed our regrets over his loss.

NICK ARABINKO, 64th, Punta Gordo, FL, along with many others say a "Big Thanks" to BOB and LILLIAN BEAUDEAN, 64th, for the great job at Bossier City. It was tops and everyone had fun.

"RED" HANLON, 65th, Larchmont, NY, and "RAP" RAPISARDI, 65th, Colorado Springs, CO, are coming along fine after surgery that kept them from Bossier City. We expect both to be in Dayton.

MARCIA BRENNEMAN, one of our most active Associate Members, missed Bossier City, but plans to be in Dayton. Her uncle was in the 65th, and was co-pilot for either BILL SMITH, or JACK FROST (19th). I flew a couple of missions with him when he first checked out. He was shot down summer of "43".

FRED and MARGARET BLAIR, 63rd, Australia, sent Christmas wishes from Down Under. FRED received a letter from WILLIAM H. TRUE. He was Group Operations Officer, just turned 83, and still going strong. Fred also signed up Stuart Campbell. He was with the Scott Project.

BILL EATON, 403rd, Denton, TX, told JIM REMBISZ about the 43rd. His uncle was JOE SARNOSKI, 65th, who along with JAY ZEAMER, 65th, Boothbay Harbor, ME, received the MEDAL OF HONOR. JIM wants to be an associate member. WELCOME ABOARD!

JIM SHROPSHIRE, 65th, Sacramento, CA, had a little surgery, but is now OK. Says he talked to ROBERT FULLER. Recalled BOB and DAN CROMER, 65th C/O, flew a B17 back to the States. BOB FULLER had not heard about us. Hopes to make Las Vegas in 1990.

Had a Christmas card from JOSE HOLGUIN, 65th, Los Angeles, CA. So nice to hear from him.

PAUL COBER, 403rd, Greenville, SC, reports the death of JAMES J. MARTIN, 403rd Operations Officer, last year. His wife gave PAUL several names to check out for membership.

FRED COOKE, 65th, Ft. Walton Beach, FL, reports a great time in Bossier City. Nice to see FRED again. Thanks on a job well done are due FRED. He was responsible for suggesting and then doing all the work on our Memorial at Mareeba which we share with the 19th Group.

I got a Christmas card from J.T. BRITTON, 65th, Albuquerque, NM, JAY ZEAMER'S co-pilot. He has just completed playing duplicate bridge in all 50 States in one year. He wants to try it again in a year or so. Why not make it with a 43rd member. Lets hear it from all 50 States. Write J.T. and tell him you will get him a game in your state. Have fun J.T.

FRED EPPLEN, 63rd, Aurora, CO, after a great time at Bossier City, is all fired up to find more 43rd people. Wants to find HARRY PARK'S crew and get them to Dayton. Needs help on JOHN GREGG, RAY MASON, LESTER BETTS, LEON POQUE, & JAMES "HARDLUCK" SMITH. I'm sure FRED, we have lots of "Hardluck" fellows. Can you use GEORGE "HARDLUCK" WHITE?

ELWYN and PHYLLIS HANSEN, 63rd, North Platte, NE, are either songbirds or have a really great memory. Sent in words to "The Aussies and the Yanks". They are looking for the words to "There will be smoke on the water, on the land and the sea". Anyone remember? Maybe by Roy Acuff?

ED TROCCIA, 65th, Poughkeepsie, NY, reports he and JOHN "RED" HANLON had planned to drive together to Bossier City and then had to make sick call. All's well and making plans for Dayton.

PETER CARDERO, 63rd, reports in from North Pole, Alaska. He was in and out of the 63rd. Langley, Bangor, Tucson in "46", and was flight engineer on Lucky Lady. Must be moonlighting for a fellow with a beard thats just been through a very busy season.

Harry A. Sterkel, 307th Bombardment Group (UH) assc, 904 North Wilson, Royal Oak, MI 48067, wants to know if anyone remembers GEORGE THOMAS MAHER. He was a bombardier on a B-24 crew. He was KIA late "43" or early in "44". MAHER was a lawyer from Laredo, TX.

HENRY E. DREYER, 65th, Westmont, NY, wants to help preserve the history of the 43rd so that America will remember we were there when needed. He reports in as the oldest 2nd LT. in the history of the Group. Take heart HENRY, I have more co-pilot time than anyone else.

BILL DAVIS, 65th, Orange, CA, a "50" model, wants to hear from Davis-Monthan folks, 1950 to 1954. BILL, "BREEZY" has reprogrammed the roster to show what decade we each served plus duty, etc. More about the new roster later from "BREEZY".

PHIL HOFFECKER, 64th, Kennett Square, PA, also had the words to "The Aussies and the Yanks are Here". Phil sent a little extra with his dues. Thanks, we need it for the memorial.

HAROLD M. CAROTHERS, 63rd, Milton, FL, sent in a good report, and suggested membership cards. HAROLD, I think you got Breezy's attention. The cards are printed, and he has been sending them out as the dues are sent in.

Got another note from EDMOND TROCCIA. ED brought up this North-South thing. He and RED HANLON think that Breezy and I are late sending them their newsletter just because they are Yankees. Never heard of such a thing. It is just that Damn Yankee White. He's telling folks he has to walk to San Antonio to get his.

DICK HEMPHILL, 65th, Duncan, SC, a radio operator and waist gunner on JIM HARCROW'S crew, got grounded and moved to the Radio Shack. Reports he was able to help ARTHUR RITEMORE (?) who was looking for info on his dad. DICK and ARTHUR flew several missions together. Good work DICK.

JIM WARREN, 65th, reports another spelling error. HERB BILLINGTON really is HERB BILLINGSLEY, and according to JIM, "A hell of a fellow. Made life a lot more comfortable for a lot of GI'S." Thanks for the kind words JIM, we all need and needed a HERB. (note from Lloyd: What happened to Billingsley, anyone know? He is not on the roster.)

JIM KLEIN, 65th, Stillwater, MN, has contact with BOB BERRINGER, 65th, Ventura, CA, a Bombardier, and TOM SCANNELL, 65th, Schodack, NY, a Pilot, and would like to hear from any other crew members, either on B-24's or B-32's.

STAN ENSBERG, 63rd, Toronto, SD, recalls the handfull at San Antonio that BOB BUTLER, 63rd, Fayetteville, NC, got together. Can't believe how BOB'S idea has grown. STAN, join with the rest of us for a tip of the hat or salute to BOB BUTLER, GEORGE WHITE, LLOYD BOREN, and many others. Mission accomplished. Even BREEZY hit the pickle barrel at 20,000 feet.

IZZY MILLER, 63rd, New Haven, CT, reports the B-17 Chris S. Lind of Townsville asked about was 391. It was taking off from Mareeba along with 8 others at 0330 hrs, 14 September, 1942 for Seven Mile strip. The aircraft was airborne. Fire occurred and the plane went in about half a mile off the end of the runway. Short fire, then exploded. Extra crew member was Asst. Eng. Sgt. LAWRENCE W. DONKER of Brooklyn, NY.

STEVE BATSON, 403rd, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, came over in "42". Made Torren's Creek and Iron Range, etc. Retired as a M/Sgt. Loves the newsletters, BREEZY'S and GEORGE'S. Hope after this one you still pay your dues. I'm trying!

PAUL BLASEWITZ, 63rd, Clearwater, FL, was the tail-gunner on 41-24521, Black Jack's last mission. DE LOACH was the pilot. Steve Birdsall was pleased to get his input. A TV account of the flight and the finding of the aircraft, 40 odd years later, off Nelson Cape is in the making. Hope we get to see it. PAUL, that was a nice write up in the St Petersburg Times. A very fitting November 11th story.

ED GAMMILL, 63rd, Phoenix, AZ, says he turned his suit in at Garrett Turbine Engine Co. and is looking forward to more time for the 43rd. Good to have you ED.

"CHUCK" QUINETTE, 63rd, Mira Loma, CA, was a pilot with the "Scott Project". FRED BLAIR checked him out on his first mission. Looking forward to seeing everyone in Dayton.

WES ROWE, 64th, Levittown, PA, sent in a poem written by Corp. NICK SABETTA. it is about the 64th. It's pretty good. I'll send ART MULLIGAN and ROGER KETTLESON, the 64th directors some copies.

PAUL LEDGER, 63rd, Ft Wayne, IN, is pleased to be back in the 43rd. BERNARD and ROSALEEN ROBERTSON, 63rd, Hampdon, ME, dropped by to see them and ROBERT AUGUSTINE, 64th, Bourbon, IN, gave him a call. That's what it's all about Paul.

PHIL WELCH, Hdqrs, Phoenix, AZ, made the return trip Down Under. Saw PAUL BIDINGER, Hdqrs, Australia, in Sydney, and learned of the death of BILL NANCE. PAUL married as Aussie and stayed after WWII.

John Chopelas is compiling a list of B-17's. Names and numbers. He has several hundred from the 8th and 15th AF. Would like any info we might have. John, as I understand it, there were between 176 and 179 in the SW Pacific. 24 or 25 of these never got to the 5th AF. 34 were strafed in the Philippines, I think. 4 after that were bombed. The rest were lost in combat. We ended up with 12 still flying when the B-24's took over. Check with GEORGE WHITE on the 100 or more lost in action. John lives at 508 S. Gray, Killeen, TX 76541. He was in the 452nd BG, 8th AF.

GENE HUNT, 65th, Raytown, MO, just got the word on the 43rd and sent in his dues and wants roster. Looking forward to seeing some old friends. Says he has several New Guinea Gold papers. If Lloyd doesn't have your phone number, send it in. GENE might give you a call.

ANGUS and HELEN TAFT, 64th, Tallahassee, FL, are sorry they couldn't make the Bossier City mission. Reports his Bombardier GEORGE PATTERSON passed away and said GEORGE had planned on making Bossier City. ANGUS also reports another of his crew, STANLEY G. RUBY, passed away some years back. STANLEY'S wife has some film they shot flying out of Leyte and Clark. Angus has seen it and says it's great. I'll write Mrs. Ruby for a copy.

JOE GREEN, 403rd, Valdosta, GA, reports he regretted missing the "87" reunion but he had already made other plans. Something about seeing an old Army buddy that turned out to be his brother-in-law. JOE and JEAN got married in Bangor, Maine three days before he sailed. JOE, as I see it, that lets you off AWOL. I'm sure you wanted to thank him for his sister, Jean. Gosh, she

has put up with you for over 45 years. See you both in Dayton in October.

JOHN "JACK" CAPERTON, 65th, Albuquerque, NM, wrote a very nice note. BOB WATSON, 65th, Santa Ana, CA, sent "Breezy" JOHN'S name. JOHN hit the high spots of BOB'S career. I can only add, "Good on you Yank". it has been a great pleasure to me to see each of you in your own way, succeed. Maybe we each learned something meaningful in WWII.

CHARLIE and GENEVA BELLOWS, 65th, Davis, CA, saw J.T. BRITTON and his big trailer go by. Then saw him off to Hawaii, last stop on his Bridge Mission. Both are hoping Helen's knee gets better, as we all are.

CLYDE FARRELL, 63rd, Denver, CO, and his wife had a nice surprise. On Labor Day weekend, VIC FRANCO, 63rd, Colorado Springs, CO, invited them over. Much to their surprise, out came WILLIAM and HELEN O'BRIEN, Pilot, Sun City, CA, VIC and ANNA MARIE, Navigator, FRED and FLORENCE CHRISTMAS, Tailgunner, Phoenix, AZ, JESS and VIRGINIA GIBSON, Mess Sgt., Woodland Park, CO, LEN and IRENE NYGARD, Crew Chief, Fargo, MO, and CLYDE and GISELA FARRELL, Crew Chief, Denver, CO. Most of this bunch flew the B-17 "Talesman". What a party that must have been. Hope Breezy's roster helped getting the fellows together.

PAUL SEYMOUR, 403rd, N. Tonawanda, NY, and WILSON KING, Hdqrs, Canyon Lake, TX, now have copies of "The Aussies and the Yanks". Have fun.

ARMAND and MARGARET MANCINI, 403rd, St Johnsville, NY, sent money for the memorial and a big Happy and Healthy New Year to each and all.

HAZEL ALLISON sent in a check for the Memorial in memory of her husband GEORGE ALLISON. What a thoughtful gift. It will help complete the 43rd Memorial at Dayton. God Bless.

Breezy forgot to mention that in the 65th, I was "Willie". DUTCH EHLERS, my pilot, would call me Wh-Wh-Willie when we were over the target or under attack. So, I became Wh-Wh-Willie.

The dues are coming in but if you still haven't sent yours in, do so now. Don't become a drop-out, its the best buy anywhere for 10 bucks. Besides we want you!

The Memorial at Wright Patterson is a must. It is to be a marble bench right by the big FIFTH AIR FORCE MEMORIAL. The lettering on the bench will tell about the 43rd in WWII. Please send what you can. We need at least \$3000.00 more.

ART and MAXINE HANE, 403rd, Purcell, OK, stopped by in their new trailer New Year's Eve. Gosh it's nice. They were on their way to Arizona. Had MARY LOIS and me out for a visit. We had lots of talk about our second reunion in Oklahomna City. I've heard BOB BUTLER say many times, the got this thing going. The 403rd has been getting together about 10 years longer than the 43rd. The OK City reunion was really the 403rd party. They let us crash it. Made lots of extra work on ART, MAXINE, and their family. From all the rest of us a special thanks to the HANES, and the 403rd. (note from Lloyd: most of the ones who joined us after OK City probably don't know, but DALE BARR, 403rd, Omaha, NE, was President of the 403rd at that time, now, he is Vice President of the 43rd, and next in line for President. How's that for going full circle?)

Oh yes, I think the 403rd shipped GEORGE WHITE out after scrubbing 2 or 3 aircraft. They will be real pleased to know he did the same thing to the 63rd. The 403rd must be real sharp. Way to go GEORGE, you got almost as many of our planes as the Japs.

A Healthy and Happy New Year to each of you from BREEZY & HELEN, DALE & MARY, BILL & MARY LOIS

FROM LLOYD

First, a word of thanks to FRED EPPLEN for the tremendous job he is doing trying to locate former crew members and friends in the 43rd. He is also getting us a little publicity for the reunion. This is about time to ask all of you who have a large newspaper close by to insert notices of the reunion which starts Oct 5, 88 and ends Oct 9, 88. Place, Daytonian Hilton, Dayton, Ohio. 8th Annual reunion. Contact Lloyd Boren, Secty, Treas. 43rd Bomb Group Assn. Inc., 102 Beechwood, Universal City, TX 78148, Phone 512-658-5978. These notices are a big help in locating former members of the Group.

Had a nice letter from JOHN COOP, 403rd, Australia. In addition to sending his dues and a donation to the Memorial, he writes; "It is a great feeling to belong to the Association. I only regret that I was not aware of it's existance before now, but having lived in The Land Down Under for the past forty years, I had lost contact with everyone associated with the 43rd Bomb Group. It was only by chance that I learned of the trip being made by some members to this area last April. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all other members the very

best of health and good fortune for 1988.

JOHN, in typing out the above note from you, It suddenly dawned on me that there could be some others in Australia who also have never heard there was a 43rd Assn. We presently have 6 members in Australia, and 2 in New Guinea. Is there a way you could get the Sydney papers to print a notice of the reunion, and the fact that there is such an organization. The paper could refer them to either you or me.

STANLEY DUCHARME, 63rd, Brattleboro, VT, writes that he was a member of the 63rd from Bangor, ME. till 1944. Wants to know why he doesn't see any names of the original outfit. STANLEY, it must be because they don't write us. We are loaded with guys from that era. Wait till you get the latest roster coming out end of April or first of May.

QUENTIN EMBER, 403rd, Newport News, VA, sends his best. QUENTIN was one of the original members of the 403rd from Bangor, ME.

Received word from JAY ZEAMER that he plans on being in Dayton.

Had a phone call from M.L. "CRABBIE" CRABB, 65th, P.O. Box 85, Killian, TX 76540. He asked that we place the following in the newsletter. Members of the 74th Bomb Sqdn. Stationed at Guatamala City between 1942 and 1945 met for the first time last year. They are meeting this year in Tucson, AZ in September. Anyone interested may contact CRABBIE at the address above.

Received a nice long letter from FRED CHEUVRONT, 63rd, Whittier, CA. FRED reports he spent a nice Christmas with his Son and Daughter-in-Law and family in Sacramento. When you realize that the major quake that recently struck California had its center in Whittier, you can probably find another reason why FRED wanted to get out of town. FRED called us shortly after that quake, and it did quite a bit of damage to his house in addition to scaring everyone in the vicinity out of their wits. Fred has a computer that is compatable with the new program for the Roster, so I keep him up to date with a new data disk every month.

In regards the computer program I have been using all these years, we outgrew it a couple months before the last reunion. It started overwriting some names before I caught it, and figured out what to do about it. This was the reason a few of you did not receive mailouts. This has now been corrected, I had to write a new program, and retype in all the names and info from a combination of the old info and several past rosters. Writing a new program took some time, until last month as a matter of fact, but it will be worth it over the long haul. I was able to add several valuable changes to the roster. First, starting with the upcoming roster in April or May, it will be printed out alphabetically by name, including everything the computer knows about that person, wife's name, squadron, era, 40's, 50's etc., duty, phone, and whether that person has paid for the current year. The roster will also have a complete roster by Squadrons, name only. And last, there will be a complete listing by States, name only. This should give us one of the best rosters out, and certainly the best we have ever had. There is another advantage to the new program. The mailing labels, like the one on the front of this letter, will have PAID written after your name if you have paid for 88. By the same token, it will leave that spot blank if we do not show you paid, and of course will not print out a roster label if you haven't paid. We feel that \$10.00 a year to receive the newsletters and roster is not too much, and we know that the main reason you haven't paid is because it's too easy to forget. I know from the many letters I receive that you enjoy the newsletters, and believe me, you are going to appreciate the new roster. So if you don't have PAID after your name on this letter, send a check now, don't put it off.

Now for the reunion. The dates, Wed Oct 5th thru Sunday Brunch Oct 9th. The place, The Daytonian Hilton, 11 South Ludlow, Dayton, Ohio, 45402. Phone, 800-445-8667. BE SURE AND STATE YOU ARE WITH THE 43RD BOMB GROUP. In the July newsletter, we will enclose a reservation request for you to use. Room cost will be \$50.00 nightly, single or double. Please include one nights payment when registering. Cost for the reunion will be the usual \$65.00, per person, and will, as usual, cover registration fee, Friday and Saturday nights dinners, dancing, etc., Sunday Brunch, bus fares, several continental breakfasts, Ladies entertainment etc. Our hosts in Dayton are, DICK and JANE HENNIG, 64th, 36 John Ave., New Carlisle, OH 45344, Phone, 513-845-0030. Make your registration checks payable to 43rd Bomb Group Reunion, and forward to DICK. We will have quite a bit more news on the reunion coming up in the next two newsletters. One thing you may like, we will have the entire Hotel, they have 213 rooms, so you need to get your reservation in early. We expect a very large turnout due to the membership in that area of the country, and also because of the Air Museum tour and visit to the Memorials.

GEORGE WHITE, 63rd, Chatham, NJ, received a long letter from DR. LEROY "LEE" HOCKENSMITH, 65th, Carmichael, CA. He writes; "I am very happy to have been receiving the 43rd Group Newsletters. I have often thought of my former crew members and what has happened to each of them. I was a nose gunner on a B-24 attached to the 65th Squadron. Most of my crew members called me "SMITHY". My

Pilot was JACK HAWKINS, Co-pilot, JOHN HESTER of Seattle, We had a couple Bombardiers, one of whom was JOE ??? from Newport, KY, a great Navigator, HAROLD ???, I believe was from Washington. Our Engineer was CARL or KARL P. "DANK" DANCKWERTH ??? from E. Orange, NJ. EDWARD B. STITCH from Chicago was our Radio Operator, AL GOOD from Oklahoma in the ball turret, MICHAEL MAKAR of Pittsburgh, our tail gunner, and Glen ??? from Denton, TX was top turret gunner. They were all a great bunch of guys.

After training together as a crew in Walla Walla, WA, we picked up a new "24" in Salinas, CA, and ferried it to Biak, New Guinea via Hawaii, Canton Island, Tarawa, and Guadacanal. In Biak, we picked up an older model "24", and flew it to Nadzab where we began flying combat. After some time there, we then moved to Clark Field and finally on to Ie Shima. We were flying missions from there when the war ended."

SMITHY, we have the best bloodhounds in the country in the organization. Some of you guys get busy and lets help SMITHY find his crew.

Received pictures, orders, and info sheets from quite a few, among them, JIM REMBISZ, (kin to SARNOSKI), who enclosed copies of various articles pertaining to the MEDAL OF HONOR awarded JOSEPH SARNOSKI along with JAY ZEAMER, also from LARRY MAIN, 65th, Tullake, CA, pictures and info sheet, and ED TORDOFF, 64th, 2109 14th Ave., Eldora, IA 50627. ED, although having Parkinson's disease, has managed to make most of our reunions, finally missing Bossier City because of a flare up. ED has been in and out of the VA Hospital lately, but for at least a month hasn't been out of the house. WINONA, his wife, says he could sure use some mail from some of you guys to cheer him up. He asked for, and has been sent a cap and jacket patch for the 64th.

Received a card from JIM PETTUS, Hdqrs, Hawaii. Our former C/O had to miss the Bossier City reunion as he had already made arrangements for a African Safari. He has replied to Larry Hickey, and will aid the History project with pictures, etc. JIM also talked to DR. BUD GUSACK, 65th Flight Surgeon, Washington, DC, and BUD says he will make Dayton along with JIM.

JOHN "RED" and JULE HANLON, 65th, Larchmont, NY, wrote. JOHN was sorry to miss Bossier due to his operation. He is making a slow recovery, but still cheerful after a really rough time of it. Hope you and JULE can make Dayton, and everyone wishes you a quick recovery and all the best for the New Year.

BOB FLAHART, 63rd, Wilmington, DE, writes that the newsletter is interesting, but it is always about the "Fly-boys". BOB, you and some of the guys who "KEPT EM FLYING", need to write me more new items. About one fourth of our members fall in your category, and we need more input from you. Let me know who or what you have done lately, seen lately, talked to lately. This is the only news source we have. A lot of things you think would be of interest to you alone, would probably interest others.

JAMES J. SMITH, 63rd, Wichita, KS, writes that he was very interested in the last newsletter article about WARREN ADAMS, 63rd, Springfield, IL, and M.R. HAMILTON, 63rd, Pleasant Hill, MO. JAMES was also one of that group of Radar Men from Boca Raton. He would like to have a get-together of that group. You guys in that group could have a Mini-Reunion. JAMES says he was the Radar Operator on C. "TEX" MOLLER'S crew. JAMES, we do not have MOLLER on our roster, and since you say you have the addresses (at the time) of all the crew, why don't you send a copy to MATT HOLOHAN, at 7737 91st St. North, Seminole, FL 33543. MATT has had a lot of success locating members.

MRS TILLIE SLANE, widow of KEITH, 63rd, Bliss, ID, writes that she is very interested in the upcoming book on the 43rd. She feels it would be a wonderful present for her Grandson. This will be something that will probably be passed on long after we are gone. Another good reason to support this project!

O.K. COULTER, 64th, Zanesville, OH, sent photos of his recent trip in "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY", a fully restored, (guns and all), B-17, owned by the Confederate AF. OK still flies with them.

I thought that you might like to know who the 56 men were who formed this Association in San Antonio in December of 1981 in response to BOB BUTLER'S notices. The following was taken from Newsletter #2, and lists the great guys who got this Association off to a flying start at reunion #1.

#### HDQRS

FR. THOMAS SHEA, FRED MC ALLISTER, PHIL WELCH

403RD SQDN



JOE LAWHN, JIM TERHUNE, STEVE BLOUNT III, MAX AXELSEN, SID LEE

63RD SQDN

BILL LAIRD, AL FISCHER, KEN EIDEN, TONY DEANGELIS, BILL "RADAR" HOOVER, JOE "CHUNKY" WILFERT, BOB "RHETT" BUTLER, WATHEN CODY, CARL HUSTAD, TYSON BARNES, JIM MURPHY, EPHRON JAMES, STAN ENSBERG, HARVEY BANCROFT, CARROLL "BUCKSHOT" SINCLAIR, ROGER VARGAS, BILL DITZ, LLOYD ANDERSON, CHRIS SUNDERMAN, BILL CHURCH, RICHARD WOOD, JOE HIRSCH, JIM DIEFFENDERFER, KEN BECKSTROM.

64TH SQDN

LARRY DE HAVEN, CHAS. GIDDINGS, HOWARD "ANDY" ANDERSON, ALFRED LE CLAIRE, TROY MC CONNELL, JOHN E. MC COSKER, CHAS. SULLIVAN, ALLEN NELSON, DEAN BROWN, ROBERT GOODWIN, ROBERT COOPER, H.T. "ACE" HASTINGS, WALDO SCHAUWEKER, REV. J. B. YOUNG, RAY HOLSEY, CHAS. MC CLENNY, TOMMY BARNETT.

65TH SQDN

LLOYD "BREEZY" BOREN, MEL "DUTCH" EHLERS, CHAS. "CHUCK" EDWARDS, MAX OSBORN, EARL RESHAW, J.T. BRITTON, EUGENE "DUTCH" BENEDETTI.

THESE WERE THE CHARTER MEMBERS.

I am not going to include Squadron changes and new members in this newsletter as the latest roster will be out towards the end of April or first of May, along with the next newsletter. At that time we shall have passed the 1300 member mark. Also in the roster, I will leave enough space at the end to add new members as they come in.

I have about 3 dozen Caps left with the Group Insignia from Bossier City, they are \$7.00 each including postage. We are out of 64th Patches.

The last mailout did a lot toward clearing up mistakes on the roster, and as of now, our roster should be quite accurate. We have also received more dues than usual, just proving that most of us forget unless we are reminded. That Paid after your name on the labels should help.

Last, but certainly not least, I received, today, the following from LARRY HICKEY.

GROUP HISTORY PROJECT NOTES

Since the initial questionnaire went out to start the ball rolling on the 43rd B.G. History, the author, Larry Hickey, has received a steady stream of responses, about 75 so far. Each and every one will be answered and followed up. To those who have already responded, thanks for your cooperation and support. For those of you who haven't gotten around to it yet, please do so soon as the rate of response and assistance from the membership will be a major determinant in how quickly the book can be researched and written. No decision yet has been made about a co-author for the project. The author would like to obtain a copy of the book, "Down Under," which was printed in Sydney in 1943. Does anyone have an extra copy of that book that they would be willing to let him have? If you have any questions or have material or information to contribute to the project, contact him directly at: LARRY HICKEY, INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING CORP., P.O. BOX 3334 HIGH MAR STATION, BOULDER, COLORADO 80307.

I would like to do without the next section which is the largest I have seen since the Assn. was formed. Nothing brings home the realization that we are all getting older than something like this.

TAPS

JAMES J. MARTIN, 403rd			1987
ELMER FESSLER	Beverly Hill, FL	Sept 21,	1987
RAYMOND MERZ, 63rd	Rochester, NY	Oct 26,	1987
TOM PELLIOR, 403rd	Toronto, OH	Oct 3,	1987
STEWART BLOOMFIELD, 403rd	Kansas City, MO	Dec	1987
WILLIAM "BILL" FLYNN, 65th	Hot Springs, AR	Jan 3,	1988
ALBERT STAGE, 65th	Cumberland, WI		
PATSY PAGANO, 63rd	E. Greenbush, NY	Jun 16,	1987
JACK WEBBER, 65th	St Louis, MO	Jun 23,	1987
PAUL KAYLOR, 403rd	Hagerstown, MO	Jan 5,	1988
FLOYD BREWER, HDQRS	Lockport, NY	Jan 11,	1988

To their families we offer our deepest sympathy.

I had finished the newsletter at this point and was headed, the next morning, for the printers

when I received the following from BOB BUTLER. It seemed appropriate to include it in this spot rather than hold it over.

FROM BOB BUTLER

In respect to VIC FRANCO'S Labor Day reunion, it really made me feel good. BILL O'BRIEN had a great crew. I was glad to see O'BRIEN, for the first time, at Bossier City. Those on his crew missing, were the Co-pilot, POWELL, and the Bombardier, BINIUS, (now deceased). I was on the runway at 7 mile when BINIUS was carried from the plane with a real bad leg wound from flac. FRANCO'S reunion would have been complete if their maintenance man, DOMINICK ANGERAME, from Albany, NY could have been there.

I have been given too many credits and thanks for starting the reunion in 1981. The truth is, I have benefited more than anyone because of the letters, pictures, and new friendships from other Squadrons, that have come my way. The O'BRIEN crew reunion was just one of the results I hoped for when I made the effort to locate our comrades of 45 years ago. I have even been lucky to locate several survivors of my own crew. There were four of us at Bossier City. HARRY STALEY, Co-pilot, KEN BECKSTROM, Navigator, myself as Bombardier, and GEORGE DIRR, (his first reunion), as Engineer. I wouldn't take anything for a picture sent to me showing me, STALEY, and BECKSTROM singing with the band "Bless Them All" at Bossier City.

I guess I get real sentimental when I start remembering the 43rd group times and events over 40 years ago. The people and missions, and trips to Sydney, are just as vivid as if they were yesterday. Good fortune has smiled on me to put me in such a good Squadron and Group, and at a time our efforts really made a difference in turning around the enemy in 1942-43 and later, as the 43rd moved north all the way to Japan itself.

I would like to remember, in writing, a few of the 43rd characters from those days, some I knew then, and others I came to know when the reunions got started. They are from all ranks, duties, and Squadrons. Some came over on the Argentina, the Queen Mary, and some flew over. All contributed to the 43rd in its outstanding record.

BILL NANCE - - He took over as Sgt/Major when J.A. HOLT was sent up to Hdqrs 5th AF. I was lucky, along with the others who made the Australia trip in '87', to see NANCE and PAT, his Australian wife. He died shortly after we got back but I still remember our long conversation about the 43rd early days, as we were riding the ferry from Harbord to Sydney, after the party at FRED BLAIR'S house.

There were two other non/coms from Hdqrs Sqdn who I got to know from the reunion. DE RUSHA and KELLY. LARRY DE RUSHA was a great letter writer and before he passed away, made his one and only reunion on the Queen Mary in '83'. KELLY, who was a good friend of CY MICHAELS and FATHER SHEA, died of a heart attack, but I know the reunion meant a lot to all of them.

In my own 63rd Squadron, a little fellow named LOUIS PRIFTI, now deceased, was a real sparkplug. I remember him from 42-43 when he was ball turret gunner on JIM MURPHY'S crew. His nickname was "SWIFTY", and when I got the reunion started in '81', he wrote many letters, even epic poems about the 43rd and it was a sad time for all when he died shortly after the reunion at Arlington, VA.

Another 63rd Nom-Com, BILL DITZ, loved the reunions. He came to the first one at San Antonio, drove his pickup from Missouri. He said his job during the war was as a "Wood Butcher", ie; Carpenter. But he was also a good athlete, and played on some of FATHER SHEA'S teams. The serious illness which caused his death was the only reason he missed the '86' reunion.

Another one from the 63rd who should be remembered is ED SCOTT. When I knew him, he was Major SCOTT, C/O of the 63rd, a tall, rugged and handsome pilot from Hollendale, Miss. (He played football for Ole Miss). He was a natural leader - later becoming Group Commander, and had a great post war career in SAC under Gen Kenney - he died on the way back from Europe after the war as a Brig/General.

There was a mess Sgt. from the 64th, ED BELL, from Bangor, ME, who could tell the best stories of the old days. I didn't know him then, but after one reunion, ED came by Fayetteville, NC and spent some time at our house. He had an \$800.00 guitar and could really make harmony when we sang "Brown Eyes". Shortly after that he died suddenly from a heart attack but enjoyed several reunions of the 43rd.

Col RAY HOLSEY, 64th Squadron, from Altus, OK. It was a real shock to all of us when shortly after Christmas '86', RAY was killed in a private plane crash in OK. He was a pilot in the 64th, a great buddy of KEN MC CULLAR, HARRY STALEY, and HAL BRECHT. Once he landed a B-17 on the beach in New Guinea, and later took it off from the same beach. I can still see a picture of him in a



grass skirt on the beach, while waiting for the takeoff from the beach. Ray had an outstanding career as a pilot the Air Force, and as a business man in Altus. A recent article in the Air Force Times announced that a buwlding at Altus AFB would be named after him because of his post war support of the base and it's missions.

There were two men, now deceased, who were great supporters of the 43rd reunion. They had the same last name. The first, CHARLES GOETZ, was not in the 43rd in WWII but was in the 22nd, a B-25 Group. After the war he was disabled but started a roundup of 5th AF Veterans. Because of this hobby, when I began to try to locate 43rd members, CHARLES GOETZ gave me many names, some of my own crew, and a complete roster of the 403rd Squadron reunion. I never met him except by phone and letter, but I think he should be an honorary member of the 43rd for all of his help. The other deceased member was JAMES GOETZ, Hdqrs Squadron, from Cincinnati, OH. He was an engineering Officer in Hdqrs. He wrote me many letters and knew many details about missions and plane numbers. He never made a reunion because of ill health, but was quick to correct any mistakes in a newsletter.

There are many others we should remember, and the Memorial Service at each reunion is an important part. I guess my feeling about departed comrades is made more real because I know how much all of those I have written about enjoyed the spirit of the reunions. As we get older, the days and adventures of our youth provide a great source of love and joy, and the chance to re-create any of them is the reason the 43rd reunions will go on as long as any of us remain.

BOB BUTLER

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