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## 43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

27th Edition - 63rd, 64th, 65th, 403rd, Hdqs Squadrons - April 1988

### FROM BILL WILSON

Well, it's time for mail call again and I have one hundred and thirty two letters to answer. I hope I can do it like you want. I've had lots of advise and coaching since the last newsletter. I'm afraid the Air Force Museum is going to be the end of me. The donations are not the problem, they're coming in fairly well. It's just trying to get the design of the monument approved that keeps giving me fits. Several times I've come up with something I thought would be exactly right and just what we all wanted, only to find out a month later that it wouldn't work for some reason. This really needs to be in the works no later than May so it will be ready for the Reunion. Maybe someone besides myself can get that bunch at the Museum on the ball.

"THE RETURN OF THE EAGLES", a DOWN UNDER gathering of the 5th AF/RAAF is planned during Australia's Bicentenary Celebration, Air Show, and EXPO 88 beginning 11 Oct. 88. Anyone interested in this, contact Col. Barney Dobbs, The Return of the Eagles, 150 Powell St. #307, San Francisco, CA 94102.

DELBERT "SMITTY" SMITH, 63rd, Rogers, Ar., reports working with BRUCE HOY and STEVE BIRDSALL on the "BLACK JACK" project. On it's last trip, SMITTY says, WM. E. "BILL" O'BRIEN was Pilot, and VICTOR "VIC" FRANCO was Navigator, both from the 63rd. SMITTY has made contact with the wife of the Pilot who picked them up, and also with one of the crew. They were flying a RAAF Walrus Amphibian. Phyl Bonython, the wife of the pilot reports her husband was MIA a few weeks after the "BLACK JACK" rescue. He went after a Beaufort crew and got caught in a cyclone. In 1946, he was changed to Missing-Presumed Killed. Her letter to SMITTY was very interesting. Eric Foster, one of the RAAF crew who picked the boys up, was very surprised to hear from SMITTY. He thought when they picked SMITTY up, he had had it. The village where the survivors were sheltered on Cape Vogel was Boga Boga. All this and more should air in the States on Memorial Day, and in Australia, on Anzac Day. Video tapes will also be available. We will try to get one to show in Dayton, also information on where to order additional copies.

The 20th AF is having it's first reunion the 29th of August in Anaheim, CA. For more information, contact Elbert B. Smith, 20th AF Association, 711 Compass Lake Dr. San Diego, CA 92119.

BILL EATON, 403rd, Denton, TX., and JIM REMBISZ, Little JOE SARNOSKI'S nephew, pointed out JOE'S last name was misspelled on the 5th AF Memorial. A letter to Sammy A. Pierce, President 5th AF Memorial Foundation, got a quick reply. NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, Anoka, MN, and our representative on the Foundation had already noted the error and it was being corrected. Excellent service on this one, but why not, the 43rd is by far the biggest supporter.

The response to the Memorial Fund has been good. We had a nice donation from a General and a PFC the same day. It made me think; I guess that's what makes the 43rd so great, each in his own way was doing his share.

Some of the new members of my "I'M IN Club; BILL DUMKA, a crew/chief from the 63rd, EMANUEL DALPRA, personnel section, 65th, BUD "DOC" GUSACK, 65th flight surgeon, CHUCK QUINETTE, pilot in the 63rd, also, REGGIE TATRO, 65th, a real hand in maintenance, and BILL BEDNARSKI, 403rd. BILL and REGGIE are both from New England. They may want to do the reunion in "89". JUNE R. MARTIN, widow of JAMES, from Fairfield, VA., DALE A. HUEY, 63rd Navigator, DALE E. COOPER, 65th pilot, JOHN DEVINE, 64th bombardier, FRANCIS P. DENAULT, 63rd pilot, FRED FETZER, also from New England, J.A. HOLT, Headquarters Sgt/Major, JOSEPH SNYDER, a gunner in the 403rd, TED GEHRINGER, 63rd navigator, RAYMOND GATES, A 63rd engineer, HOWARD SHOMO, 64th gunner, PAUL HART, 403rd, KENNETH ENGEL, 64th gunner & armorer, CHARLES NUNEZ, 63rd, A.V. IANPIETRO, Hdqrs, PAUL COBER, a 403rd pilot,

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**RALPH DE LOACH**, a 63rd pilot. It's nice to hear from **DE LOACH**, it's been a while. **WILLIAM R. JACKSON**, 64th gunner/armorer, **ALLEN CLATWORTHY**, 63rd, **MAURICE JONES** and **BOB ANDERSON**, crew/chief, both from the 65th, **D.M. GUINN**, a 64th nose/gunner turned attorney, **DON ANDREW BUROCHONOCK**, a 65th pilot, **EARL GOVAN**, 63rd, **GEORGE WEICHLEIN**, a 65th bombardier, **JAMES WILLIAMS**, Round Rock, TX, **ALVIN HAAS**, a radio/oper from the 64th, **HOWARD ANDERSON**, 64th, **DEAN PAGE**, gunner from Hdqrs., **JAMES PENCE**, 64th, and last but not least, Lt/Gen **EUGENE F. TIGHE JR.**, La Jolla, CA. California made a nice donation.

**JOE CHEPULIS**, 64th, sent **LLOYD** a list of 64th people who have passed away over the last ten years. He also sent a donation for the Memorial.

**LLOYD** advises me that he has supplied **FRED CHEUVRONT**, 63rd, Whittier, CA, with the master program that he wrote for the Group. **FRED'S** computer is IBM compatible. Along with the program, **LLOYD** sends a copy each month of the updated roster as insurance should anything happen to either him or the master.

**CHARLES GIDDINGS**, from Buhl, Idaho sends his best to each and all. He also helped out on the Memorial. **CHARLES** was a pilot with the 64th.

The 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation Meeting is June 25th, 14:00 hours at the Dayton Marriott Hotel. The dedication of the 5th AF Memorial is June 24th, at Wright-Patterson AFB - Air Force Museum. The reception will be at the Marriott the afternoon of the 23rd. Rooms for this event are \$58.00. (Be sure to tell them you are with the 5th AF). Should be a very nice event.

Well, I goofed again. I gave **CYRUS MICHAELS**, HDQRS. GROUP SGT/MAJOR, a field promotion. I made him a bird flapping full Colonel. He is almost as bad as **GEORGE WHITE**; I get new orders each week from him - some with checks for the Memorial. He's a good man - just too much rank.

**BOB BYRNE**, 403rd, from Coventry, RI, called and told me about Charles George with American Airlines at Dallas Fort Worth. I called him and now have a good deal on air travel to Dayton Reunion. We are enclosing a mailout form explaining the details. Check this out, may be a big savings. **CY MICHAELS** may be right - I need a lot of help. A Yank has to call and tell me about a good deal just 250 miles from Snyder.

More on Dr. **LEROY "LEE" HOCKENSMITH**. **JOE** "what's his name", bombardier from Kentucky, turns out to be: **JOSEPH B. "JOE" RICHARD**, 174 E. Poplar Ridge, Alexandria, KY 41001. **JOE** is really moving around. He is now 13 miles from Newport where he started. **HAROLD WATSON** was the navigator. You fellows get it together in Dayton, it would be a hell of a deal.

**FRED COOKE**, 65th, and wife **PAMELA**, are going to Mareeba to represent the 43rd at the Mareeba Aerodrome Memorial Service on Anzac Day. I have seen a picture of the plaque and the Memorial will be very fitting. It tells of the unique place in history Mareeba holds. That very quaint little town with the help of the 19th, 43rd, and RAAF formed the base for a springboard to victory over the aggression of Japan.

**ROGER KETTLESON**, a Board member from the 64th, and wife **AUDRY** report that **CHARLES GIDDINGS**, a pilot in the 64th, and his wife **MARY LANE**, stopped by their house on their way to San Diego, CA. It was the first time they had seen each other since 1943 when they were with the 5th Air Force Bomber Command. The **GIDDINGS** are all set for Dayton. Roger got a card from **ART CURREN**, another pilot in the 64th. He left Boeing & retired to his apple orchard in Yakima, WA, then the work started. He reports they had a good crop but the price was weak - sounds like the used car business.

Wanda Miskin Parker, 6304 E. Ellis, Mesa, AZ 85205, wants to hear from anyone who knew her brother: Lt. **ERVIN N. MISKIN** from Veon, Idaho. He was a B-24 pilot with the 403rd. He was listed as KIA, 28th March, 1944. Would also like to get a letter and address from **WAYNE TYNDALL** and **HAYDON CLARK**. I think that's **LENARD H. CLARK**, 14511 Maplewood Dr., N. Largo, FL 33540. Come on 403rd, let's help this girl out.

Nice check and note from **CHUNKY** and **CLARA MARIE WILFERT**, 63rd, Crowley, LA. Lots of rain out their way; it's been real dry in West Texas, I guess we need to swap. Last Easter, **CHUNKY** and I, along with several others, attended church in Port Moresby. **CHUNKY** is my expert skip bomber. From all reports, he says it looks like a big turnout for Dayton.

ED GAMMIL, 63rd, sent in some more of the publications that will carry the story on the Reunion in Dayton. Thanks for the help ED. **WILSON "BILL" KING**, Hdqrs., sent in a fact sheet on the 43rd. His son is Chief M/Sgt, and presently Commandant of the 1st. SGT. Academy at Keesler AFB. He will retire in May. Boy - what happened to the time! **DON BAKER**, 65th, sent a nice donation and reports his eye operation was a success. Hope you get back the old 20-20 by the time we get to Dayton. **DON** is one of our hardest workers at the reunions.

**JAMES MURPHY**, a pilot in the 63rd, and his wife **MARY JANE**, sent in a nice donation for the Memorial. I haven't seen them since the Arlington Reunion. They're getting all packed up for Dayton. **JIM** is trying hard to get all his crew to show up. Let's get on the ball! **CARL HUSTED**, another pilot in the 63rd, and his wife **GINNY** also sent in a generous donation for the Memorial. **CARL** and I swap pecans for rice. He's got the wild rice, and I have pecans. That pair are really something special.

**FOLMER SOGAARD**, 63rd pilot, added some to the Memorial and "A" kind word for the January newsletter. Thanks **FOLMER**, I needed that. I had a call from **MICHAEL FODY JR.**, 64th. He says he and **GLORIA** are sure going to try to get to Dayton.

**MAX OSBORN**, 65th, the legal defender of law and order in Cheyenne, WY., sent in a good report and a nice donation. **MAX** stopped off in Boulder on the way home from last year's reunion. He visited with both authors, **LEX MC AULAY** and **LARRY HICKEY**. **MAX** has some Rabaul Missions written up in INTO THE DRAGON'S JAWS. **GENE HUNT**, 65th, wants **MAX** to bring his New Guinea Gold's to Dayton so he can read them. Also, has anyone got an extra 65th patch?

**ANGUS TAFF**, pilot in the 64th, sent in a lead on old film of the 64th at Leyte and Clark. I will do some follow up and see if I can get it for Dayton. Thanks for the information, **ANGUS**. **DEAN PAGE**, Hdqrs., sent in a good report on the 43rd in 1942-43, and also some highlights on his combat missions. **DEAN** has yet to make a reunion, but he's coming to Dayton; you won't be sorry **DEAN**, these things are really something special. **ART** and **MAXINE HANE**, 403rd, spent the winter in Arizona, but are back in Oklahoma now. I know that made for an excellent vacation, but don't forget Dayton in October.

**ROGER KETTLESON**, 64th pilot, is sending in reports on the 5th AF Reunion in Las Vegas in 1990. It looks like we might have our 1990 Reunion with them. That will really be something to look forward to. **JOE RICHARD**, 64th bombardier, and several others need a correct address on **DR. LEROY HACKENSMITH**. Get the word out **DOC** and write to your old crew. Also tell **LLOYD**, he doesn't have your address either. **BOB** and **DORIS BUTLER**, 63rd, still call for assignments. Thanks for all past work and present help.

**MATT HOLOHAN**, 64th, sent in more members he has found. He also sent a 43rd Bomb Group VOICE OF THE G.I. dated 25 April, 1945. It states that March of 1945 saw the most tonnage sunk since the Battle of the Bismark Sea. The 43rd was really that good, thanks to each of you. **BOB BERINGER**, 65th, a bombardier, wants to know if we want windbreakers (golf jackets), better caps, hi-ball glasses, etc. We will see what the market is in Dayton. You can put it on for the Squadron meeting so your Director can report. It might be nice - I have a 19th Bomb Group set of hi-ball glasses. Just a little something special.

**WALLACE WRIGHT**, Hdqrs., sent in a historical date report on the 43rd. It is dated 24 April 1947. and will be great to have. We will have to have a historical committee beginning this fall. There's just too much good stuff coming in not to keep it sorted out in some kind of order. Think about it all you librarians and history buffs. Please speak up and let me know something before Dayton if possible.

**LARRY HICKEY**, International Research and Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 3334 High Mar Station, Boulder, Colorado 80307, still needs more input, photos, and experiences, for the book he is doing on the 43rd. Anyone who has something they think would add to the book, should write to **LARRY**.

This next fellow is really something else. **HARRY STALEY**, a pilot with the 63rd, wrote me a letter with all kinds of good stuff. So much stuff that I'm a little intimidated. I'll try to cover quickly: If you were in the 63rd and don't make roll call in Dayton, there will be hell to pay. **HARRY** sent in 5 years dues. Now I don't know if he is catching up or trying to get ahead, but he did include a real nice donation for the Memorial, along with everyone out for Memorial Dedications, etc. **WILCO**.

NEAL FUGATE, 63rd, sent me a copy of the information he had sent to LARRY HICKEY. Good job, NEAL. I'll give my copy to our new historian. JUNE MARTIN, Box 125 Fairfield, VA 24435, widow of JAMES J. MARTIN, a B-24 pilot in the 63rd. She writes that JAMES arrived in the outfit in August of 1943. She recalls co-pilot JOHN, last name unknown from Ann Arbor, MI. The navigator was EVERETT LIND, now in Florida, another crew member now living in New Jersey. She also thinks she recognized ELWYN and PHYLLIS HANSEN, 63rd, from North Platte. ELWYN, you or PHYLLIS drop this girl a note and help her out.

EUGENE "DUTCH" BENEDETTI, a pilot in the 65th, has done it again. He's won another marathon, and out of his winnings, has sent a nice donation for the Memorial. He has run 26 marathons in the past four years, fourteen of them with his daughter. He says he's pooped. (DUTCH is well into his 70's). JOSH BARNES, one of the few original pilots in the 65th, from Bangor, Maine on, and his wife ALICE, have sent in 5 years dues. He said something about "time flying". JOSH says he is much improved from his stroke in December of 86; but he still has a little trouble with his left hand. JOSH and ALICE returned recently from an extended trip to Australia. JOSH, we have had lots of descriptions of Sydney recently, but we haven't been able to give any real information on some of the other spots the Squadrons were stationed at. Feed some info to LLOYD for the newsletters on Torren's Creek, the town of Mareeba, and any other place the guys may have been stationed up North.

HENRY DAY, a pilot in the 64th, has a little more to say about the newsletter. Had a report of a B-24 getting a wing tip on a P-38 - he was the pilot. He had left Nadzab and around Biak Island things began to go bad. He lost an engine and headed for an alternate landing at Hollandia, but ended up a Wiak. The place was socked in, but on the 3rd pass he finally was able to set down. Just one P-38 wing tip - good show HENRY. ROBERT CARLIN, 10525 Eddystone, Houston, TX 77043 wants some information on WWII aircraft to restore. In addition to restoring aircraft all over the world, he is a world renowned painter, noted for his Aircraft paintings, both in combat and regular flight. He was a B-24 driver. ALTON LEAMAN, 65th, a tail gunner on Col. RUSIK'S crew, started in the 28th Squadron 19th BG. He's looking for FREDERICK MC GLOTHLIN. DUTCH BENEDETTI was co-pilot; ALTON, why don't you drop DUTCH a note a 608 S. Bradshaw Ave. Monterrey Park, CA 91754.

LEROY JASMER, 63rd, sent a copy of his tour of duty. Very good, I'm with you, LEROY. There were no aircrew or ground crew - just all 43rd men doing their bit. It sure took us all, and especially the ground crews who kept the planes flying. Considering what they had to work with, they performed miracles. GARRETT MINNICK, 64th, found JOHN PFEIFFER, also of the 64th, living just 6 miles from his house. Both want to get to Dayton; GARRETT, you and JOHN look around, there may be some more 43rd people nearby. HOMER KAUFMAN, navigator in the 65th, got a degree after the war from Georgia Tech. He spent most of his career with Olin Corp. in Pasadena and Beaumont, Texas. Since 1980, he's been doing consulting work. I just knew some of our bunch were smart. ROBERT R. "BOB" RICHARDSON, started a new business. He built a new house, etc., but will be able to make Dayton. He needs a picture of the 63rd B-24 "BLACK SNOOPER" (in flight). If you can help BOB, let him know. His address is 6829 Lantana Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23111.

DALE BARR, 403rd, sends in a notice of the passing of LEWIS MC KENZIE, 403rd. GENE GORDON, 403rd, ended up a parachute rigger. He says the best thing about his job was that there were no complaints. His biggest thrill was a bail out at Moresby - they all opened. Then, in Los Angeles, a salesman said, "Sgt. GORDON, I believe I know you, I'm Lt. FISH, and I jumped in one of your chutes." Small world. PHYLLIS CHRISTIANSEN, widow of LES, 403rd, an Associate member, reports the 403rd and 13th Recon had a reunion on August 28-30 of 1987. Their next get-together is September 23-25, 1988. Contact her for details. JAMES W. DUANE, 64th navigator, made some missions with RAY HOLSEY, and like all the rest of us was very sorry to hear of his passing. He says if you see Dr. DAVY CROCKETT, ask him why he had to land on the beach. He must have had GEORGE WHITE helping him. Another 65th member has passed away, the only notice we had that HAMILTON G. SUDLER had passed away was his last newsletter being returned marked "deceased".

ALTON "DOUG" LEAMAN, is still with AT&T and having lots of fun writing and calling his old friends. VINCENT STOPCZYNSKI, Hdqrs., one of MATT HOLOHAN'S friends, sent in a nice donation and his dues. He wondered if I was able to read his Polish writing. VINCENT, I'd better be able to. My daughter found a Polish boy out here in West Texas, married him, and now I've got the greatest grandson. CHARLES "CHUCK" STEIN, 403rd, returned to Australia and New Zealand in 1985. He was in Mareeba to see about the "Mareeba Butchers". He found only a sign that said we were there. Thanks to FRED COOKE'S efforts and

the support of the 43rd and 19th Groups, this Anzac day the spot will be well marked. CHUCK says they were in a car accident near Christ Church, New Zealand, and spent 6 weeks in the hospital and then back to Los Angeles for further recovery. They hope to try it again this year. Here's to better luck this time.

HOWARD "ANDY" ANDERSON, 64th, the Queen Mary man is still going strong. In fact, he has just changed jobs and now works for the State of California. None of his crew made Shreveport, but all eight of the survivors are set for Dayton. I just hope we can do as well as your bunch did on the Queen Reunion.

The Liberator Club P.O. Box 841, San Diego, CA 92112, reports at least two big events to mark the great Aircraft's 50th anniversary. On May 19-21, 1989, in Ft Worth, TX and on September 20-24, 1989, in San Diego. More than 18,000 were built. I'll get all the facts and drop them a line.

DALE and ANN HUEY, 64th, liked Bossier City and are looking forward to Dayton. DALE needs a little help. He joined the 64th at Dobodura in December of 1943. He is looking for DONALD RAUSCHER, pilot; JAMES RINNY, co-pilot; MALCOLM HUDGINS, bombardier; GLENN SMITH and JOHN ORLICK, gunners. If anyone out there has any information on these men, please send it to DALE HUEY, 4515 Wolff Drive, Brunswick, Ohio 44212.

DICK and JANE HENNIG, crew chief from the 64th, keep working on the Dayton Reunion - I'll bet they get it to fly. DICK and JANE are in charge of the reunion, and need all the help they can get from you members in the Dayton vicinity. Remember, the reunion is from Wednesday the 5th of October through the 9th (Sunday Brunch). The reunion cost as usual will be \$65.00 per person and should be sent to 43rd Bomb Group Reunion in care of DICK HENNIG, 36 JOHN AVE., NEW CARLISLE, OHIO 45344. DICK'S phone number is 513-845-0030. The hotel will be the DAYTONIAN HILTON, 11 SOUTH LUDLOW, DAYTON, OHIO 45402, PHONE 1-800-445-8667. The hotel cost will be \$50.00 nightly, single or double. Please make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel, they will require a \$50.00 deposit with your reservation. We feel that we may exceed the number of rooms the hotel has available for the first time, so please, Get your reservations in early. The hotel has agreed to get space for any overage. REMEMBER, YOUR 43RD BG CHECKS TO DICK HENNIG, AND YOUR ROOM CHECKS TO THE HOTEL.

FRANK and GENEVA SCHIRIPA, of the 64th, sent a nice check and a big HI to all. DEAN PAGE, Hdqrs, wonders if anyone remembers a B-24 circling Port Moresby after the crew bailed out. There was a red alert before the plane crashed into the Owen Stanley Mountains. DEAN is a neighbor of HARRY STALEY; both seem to stay busy. DEAN got pulled off Major BLEASDALE'S aircraft when General WALKER got on. He made the first day-light mission to Rabaul with Capt. THORINGTON.

ODIS CLEERE, 403RD, one of our Directors, sent a nice check for the Memorial and a few words of advice. Thanks ODIS, I need lots of help. BOB ROTH, 403rd, sent a nice donation in memory of 3 of his crew: T/Sgt PHILLIP C. TRAVIS JR., who passed away in the late 40's. Capt ERWIN C. ZASTROW, pilot and later Circuit Court Judge, who passed away in June of 1987, and PAUL L. KAYLOR, who passed away on January 5th, 1988. Paul was from Maryland and not Missouri as I reported in the last newsletter.

MATT HOLOHAN is back and feeling much better. He's set himself a goal of finding one of our bunch each week. He had located 11 new members, some of course have passed on and others were in poor health, etc. MATT is now working with their families to bring them up to date on what we are doing. Great job MATT! Thanks from all of us.

A nice note from FRED and MARGARET BLAIR, 63rd. DOWN UNDER is still there - they have sent in their reservation to DICK and JANE for Dayton. FRED was the first guided missile Chief of the Air Force in the Pentagon in 1944-45. This was the start up of the missile program - I was sure the 43rd had begun the program and this confirms it. FRED and MARGARET must think the Reunions are really worthwhile to travel all the way from Sydney. Think about it - after 40 years or so you might want to see some of the old bunch.

ALLEN and JEANNE CLATWORTHY, a pilot in the 63rd, wants information on the history of the 63rd. He reported ROLAND FISHER, 63rd, was with the British (like me) before Pearl Harbor. ROLAND "let" his B-24 get rammed by a Japanese night fighter - shame on you, ROLAND. ALLEN AND JEANNE attended the 50th Birthday Party at Boeing; felt like a bastard at a family reunion. ALLEN started on B-17's, but flew combat on B-24's. Come to Dayton - the "24" boys are well and strong. DOMINICK ANGERAME, 63rd, sends a big hello to all.



**JOHN and GENEVIEVE ROCHE**, 64th, sent a nice check for the Memorial. They plan to attend the 5th A.F. program in June at the Air Force Museum and hopefully meet with **DICK and JANE HENNIG**, and **KEN STEVENS**, also of the 64th. **JOHN** had a sad note to report - **EVO RIVOLI**, 63rd, passed away in January of this year. They had entered the service together in 1941, and went directly to the 43rd in Bangor, Maine. **EVO** went to the 63rd, and **JOHN** went to the 64th. They did their bit and came home together. At Fort Devens, they lived a short distance apart and got to see each other occasionally. Maybe we all need to slow down a little **JOHN**, and take time to smell the roses.

**JACK FAERBER**, 65th, another good New Englander reports that Breezy did good on the last newsletter. We will sure need **JACK** when we have a reunion in New England. A big thanks to **JIMMIE and AUDREY DIEFENDERFER**, 63rd, for a super nice donation to the Memorial. They ran into some problems and couldn't make Bossier City, but it looks like they'll make Dayton. They did get to see **BILL "RADAR" HOOVER** and **VIRGINIA**, 63rd, more nice people; this outfit is just full of em.

**MIKE "SLEPKO" DENEGAN**, 64th, asked about tax credit on the hotel bill in Bossier City. As I have been told, we can only receive credit in Texas since we are a Texas corporation, although there has been some talk that Texas may eventually join the Union. **LA VERNE KINSLER**, 403rd, sent in help on the Memorial and made a date to see everyone in Dayton. Good for you, **LA VERNE**. By way of **DAYTON BLANCHARD**, a 65th pilot, **ALBERT FLORIO**, 65th, sent a nice donation for the memorial. Anyway **ALBERT**, a used car salesman doesn't ask where or when - just send money! Thanks very much.

**RUSS and DOT EDWARDS**, 63rd, are all signed up for Dayton and the 5th AF Memorial in June. They also sent a generous donation. You just couldn't ask for better company. Everyone who hasn't made reservations better get on the ball - Dayton may not hold all of us. I heard from **JOE HEUSTON**, 65th, another New Englander. Gosh, there are a bunch of New Englanders; I guess that's why General Lee ran into trouble. Anyway, **JOE** must be a real Yankee because he wrote a nice letter bragging on **GEORGE WHITE**. **JOE**, your letter was great! My son Bill, read Steve Birdsall's book and he asked me, "How did you keep them all in the air"? A lot has been written about air-crews, and well there should be - but not nearly enough about the sheer ingenuity of the young G.I.'s in the Southwest Pacific Theatre. No parts, no new aircraft, nothing - but still they patched them up, again and again, and somehow made them fly. I guess it's time for we, the air-crews, to say a long overdue and heartfelt thanks - without their expertise we wouldn't be here today. God Bless each of you. **JOE**, space doesn't permit much of your letter here, but I am sending a copy to the book writer in Denver, and maybe another copy for Dayton.

**FRANK HOHMANN**, 65th and 403rd, sent a nice donation in memory of the following members of his crew; L/Col. **JAY P. ROUSEK**, Lt. **ROY K. DUFFEE**, Lt. **VERNON A STRAWSER**, T/Sgt. **STYLES M. MILLS**, and Sgt. **RALPH H. THOMAS**, all members are deceased. As I write this, I recall most of these fine men. Thanks for the memories, Sgt.

**ROMEO and TERRY FURIO**, 65th, seem to have a great retirement program going. They help their son with his winery through **SCORE** advise, new and old business and how to make a dollar. They're also going back to college to take select courses. It's a good life and you've really earned it. **ED and JOHANNA TROCCIA**, 65th, had a nice report on Author **RITEMOUR SR.**, for his son. Also reports **"RED" HANLON**, 65th, is slowly but surely getting over his operation. Hang tough **RED**, we need you in Dayton.

**DALE COOPER**, a 65th pilot, is trying to find his crew. February 21, 1944, he was **ANDREW BOROCHONOCK'S** co-pilot and in route to the 43rd. I sent a copy of your crew to **MATT HOLOHAN**. I believe **BOROCHONOCK** is the only one we have located at this time.

I'm sorry to report mail to **ARMAND D. LAMBERT**, 63rd, of Fitchburg, Maine, has been returned marked deceased.

A letter from **VIRGIL FALKNER**, 6936 Calle Kuehn E., Tucson, AZ 85715, reported on the B-24's. Of the 18,000 built, there are only about a dozen left. He wants to set up a B-24 Memorial at Pima Air Museum in Tucson. If anyone is interested in this plan, drop **VIRGIL** a note.

**LOUIS "MICKEY" MIKLOS, JR.**, 63rd, wants the old 63rd baseball team to write to him. He still loves sports and just the other day made the Connecticut Sports Hall of Fame. Mickey reports the passing of **JOHN KOCK** and **EVO RIVOLI**, both of the 63rd.

43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

TONY and VIRGINIA DEANGELIS, 63rd, are now in Satellite Beach, Florida, and would like to report a visit with snow birds AL and CHARLOTTE FISCHER and CHARLES and BEULAH PARKER. TONY, now that we have located you, maybe we'll hear more from you next year.

A nice note from Major and Mrs. J. A. Holt. Major HOLT is our most experienced member, partially due to the fact he is our oldest member (he was our first Group Sgt/Major). They may not be able to make the Dayton Reunion because Mrs. HOLT is not in good health. The HOLTS sent in their dues and a little extra in case anyone comes up short. He loves the newsletters. Major HOLT went to General McArthur's Headquarters and not 5th AF Headquarters as I had stated. They served together in 1924 at Post Field, Oklahoma. Sir, we are always pleased to hear from you.

FRANK HOHMAN, 65th, has gotten back together with DUTCH BENEDETTI, also of the 65th. It seems that DUTCH was a little messed up when FRANK left him in Moresby in 1943. But there was a happy ending; those are the best. AMBROSE LAUS, 63rd crew chief, who joined the 43rd at Bangor, says to tell everyone hello. JOHN HASSINGER, 63rd, started at Bangor, then the Queen Mary, and all the way back to the Philippines. A real 43rd Man all the way. Nice to hear from you, JOHN.

RALPH DE LOACH, 63rd, the fellow who took "BLACK JACK" on her last ride has been pretty busy since STEVE BIRDSALL located him in California with the news of finding "BLACK JACK". RALPH and his wife spend about half of each year in England. STEVE got him back to New Guinea for about three weeks to help with the filming, etc. The April issue of National Geographic has part of the story. RALPH has set up "Boga Boga's Black Jack Trust Fund" in memory of the crew, and payable to the little village that took care of his crew almost 45 years ago. It will mean much to the people of Boga Boga.

ANDY BUROCHONOCK, 65th, had an interesting report. He goes back to the 25th Bomb Group with the 6th AF in the Panama Canal prior to WWII. He worked on the flight line on B-18's, B-17's, and the very early B-24's. Sgt. MICHAEL PAZ was training him to be a flight engineer. Sgt PAZ went down with KEN MC CULLAR. ANDY also recalls another 25th fellow, HARRY STALEY, good fellows both.

DAVID GUINN, 64th, is pleased to see the 43rd Bomb Group is tops on giving to the 5th Air Force Memorial. He also reports that he and JACK THOMPSON, 64th, are on the alert for two missions: Dayton, the 24th of June, and again Dayton in early October. The type of aircraft to be used is the 1947 Stinson Voyager. In the true 43rd spirit that really hit the target. GORDON JACOBSON, 64th, transferred late in 1943 from a B-25 outfit. He flew with a number of crews: AL LEWIS, JOHN LANDT, MATT HOLOHAN, HARRY STEVENSON, and BILL BROWNE.

EDWARD O'CONOR, 65th, is another true 43rd fellow. From Bangor to Leyte in the Philippines. He loaded all those bombs you other guys claimed to have dropped. ED really knows.

More on the B-24's 50th Anniversary. Write to Reunion Project Office, 6424 Torreen Drive, N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87109. It will be held May 17th through May 22nd, 1989, in Fort Worth, TX. ALBERT WEBBER, 63rd, is trying to locate his crew. GOOSENS (or GOSSENS) was pilot; PIPPEN was co-pilot; GORDON was bombardier, and O'BRIEN and ROGERS were navigators. OGLE, TRUSTY, WILLINGHAM AND WALKER - ALBERT and RUTH want to see and hear from you. You can all get together in Dayton.

I received a short note from my old friend CHESTER KENNEDY, 65th. CHET, all the pictures of you and me show us sitting in the right hand seat. I haven't figured out if that means we were that good or that bad. At least FROST and LEWIS put up with you longer than they put up with me. Doctor, if you'll come to Dayton, I'll buy you a beer.

WILLIAM BEDNARSKI, 403rd, sent a nice donation to the Memorial. BILL is trying to get things lined up for Dayton. I hope you can make it. If you do you will find lots of ground crew there. I still don't know how they managed to keep me flying; we were only 10,000 miles from the parts house. A hell of a job! EMANUEL DALPRA, 65th, is glad JOE HERBER sent his name in to BREEZY. Although he can't make Dayton, he sure wants to hear from some of you. Send him a note; 504 S. Longmont Ave., LaFayette, CO 80026. JOHN KUCKUK, 64th and 403rd, navigator for DIKER'S crew in the 64th, reports the death of K.C. SUMNIGHT. "EASY" was Operations Officer in the 403rd. He passed away in 1985. KEN and JOHN were both from Shawano, Wisconsin.

I heard from REGINALD TATRO, 65th. REGGIE tried to find HERB BILLINGTON on the way home from the Omaha Reunion. He stopped in Canajoharie, NY, and checked the

Billington Hardware Store, the County Clerk's office, etc. He thinks **KEN HAYDEN** was the last to see him. He sent a cute story on a New England manufacturing plant that made small engine parts for Pratt & Whitney and others. **REGGIE** came back from New Guinea and married the boss's daughter. That's where **LUCILLE** came from. I hope to see you both in Dayton.

**BILL RITENOUR**, son of S/Sgt **ARTHUR B. RITENOUR**, sent in some stories his father and S/Sgt **HAROLD J. PERDUE** had written. I'm out of space so I'll make copies for the Memorabilia Room in Dayton. If anyone would like a copy sooner, just let me know and I'll mail one. **ALTON LEAMAN**, 65th, wants to know who **BRUCE HOY** is. **ALTON**, he's the Curator of the National Museum and Art Gallery in Papua, New Guinea. (Lloyd has gotten word that he may no longer be with the Museum, and we would like a little more information on the subject). He was most interested in what happened to missing WWII aircraft. All who have been back to New Guinea have really enjoyed meeting and visiting **BRUCE**. Hopefully he can make one of our reunions, he is quite an authority on New Guinea, and particularly the WWII era.

#### FROM LLOYD

First, a few words about the 1988 Roster. It is entirely different, and will make a nice copy to keep. The Roster was mailed out on the 20th to all who had paid dues for 1988. Those who pay their dues from the 20th on, will be mailed a roster first class, so you can still get one.

This roster has a gold cover with the Group Insignia on the front. The roster is in three parts; a complete listing of all 1302 members in alphabetical order, and including everything my computer has on file on each member. Those of you who have received your roster, check this section under your name, if I have the wrong information on you, or do not have some of the information, please write to me as soon as possible. I will change or add to the computer information as I hear from you. The second section beginning at page 18 lists all members by Squadron, and the third section (pages 22-28), lists all members by States. The whole thing is stapled together in book form.

Those of you who have **"PAID"** after your name on the label, should have already received your roster when you receive this newsletter, if not, wait another week then write to me. They were mailed third class the same as this letter. Those of you who do not have **"PAID"** after your name on this newsletter label are not shown as paid on the computer, if I have made an error, please call it to my attention, or if you want a roster and have not paid your dues (\$10.00), the day I receive your dues you will be sent one.

To be sure you understand where each check goes, your dues are sent to me (make check payable to 43rd Bomb Group Assn.), your Memorial donations are sent to Bill Wilson (make checks payable 43rd Memorial, or 43rd Bomb Group Memorial), your deposits for Reunion **ROOM RESERVATIONS**, to the Daytonian Hilton, and your checks for the Reunion itself to Dick Hennig (make checks payable to 43rd Bomb Group Reunion). Once again, its \$50.00 per night, single or double, for the rooms; \$65.00 per person for the reunion; \$10.00 for 1988 dues (those of you who are in the habit of including a little more, rest assured we will not turn it down). One glance at the new Roster will convince you it was not cheap, and believe it or not, I only mailed out 627 rosters. This is less than half our membership who have paid dues, however, it is not too late, anyone paying prior to the Dayton reunion, at which time the 89 dues will be due, will receive a roster.

#### LATE NEWS

**CLYDE TABOR**, 63rd, would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of **JAKE WARRENFELTZ**, he is not on our roster. Contact **CLYDE** at 989 Little Neck Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452.

**GEORGE WHITE**, 63rd, our Past President, writes that his very good friend **DON PITTENGER**, 403rd, died on Palm Sunday March 27th. **GEORGE** and **DON** had served together in the 8th Photo Recon Sqdn., the 19th Bomb Group, and the 43rd. **GEORGE** attended the funeral, and very kindly sent flowers from the 43rd. **GEORGE** writes that **DON** was the radio gunner on the same crew he flew ball turret on. When neither was in the hospital, they put in a lot of missions together including two ditches. When **DON** finished his tour, he had two Silver Stars, two D.F.C s, an Air Medal and a Purple Heart. His obituary notice included his membership in the 43rd Bomb Group Assn.

**WATHEN CODY**, 63rd, writes to tell us to check the April issue of National Geographic magazine. It contains the story and pictures on the **RALPH DE LOACH** ditch in **"BLACK JACK"**. In the picture, **WATHEN** is the one on the left in back.



# 43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

Lt/Gen **EUGENE F. TIGHE JR.**, Hdqrs., was kind enough to write and tell me that he was going to address the "Outstanding Airmen of the Year" banquet at Guam's Anderson A.F.B. where the **43rd BOMBARDMENT WING** is stationed today. I asked him if he would give us a brief run-down on the 43rd as it is set up today, and the following is his reply: The 43rd of today consists of two squadrons of B-52 aircraft, the 65th, and the 60th.

They have a new "Heritage" room - a mini-museum - so important to their young people of 1988. The museum is the brainchild of Lt/Col **DON CANN** who is Wing Ops and Training Officer. Its small amount of WWII info is in the custody of S/Sgt AMO, an outstanding young munitions specialist who devoted long hours to that portion devoted to WWII Air Operations in the Pacific. Unfortunately, almost all that data concerns B-29s operating from the Marianas. There is precious little data on B-17 and B-24 operations. I brought with me for use in the museum a few things I'd saved such as a photo mosaic of OWI Island, showing the 43rd aircraft deployed there, several pieces of 43rd bombing photographs of the 403rd, 65th, and 64th operations in the Philippines, Formosa, and a few other items (including the 5th Air Force Year Book).

If any of our WWII B-17/B-24 troops have any data about 43rd activities in Australia, New Guinea, the Netherlands, East Indies, Philippines or Ie Shima, I'd like them to send them to: Lt/Col **DON CANN**, USAF, Dir. Ops. & Training, #46 Golden Shower, So. Finegayan, FPO San Francisco, CA 96630-1848. So many of our greatest operations and activities from those days deserve to be remembered in this museum.

The current 43rd Commander, Col. **GROVER R. SOUTHERLAND**, was TDY in Florida during my 30 hours on Guam. His Vice Commander, Col. **DON H. BADGWELL**, is a super guy. I noted that he was born on 21 April 43, just before I arrived in Australia as a S/Sgt. (makes me feel ancient). Hope this brings a few ties back to WWII days with the 43rd. As you know, I was the last Southwest Pacific Officer to leave the 43rd on Ie Shima - a long time ago.

Lt/Gen **TIGHE** was with us at the last reunion in Bossier City. Thanks General.

For all you B-24 guys, the address of the B-24/50th Anniversary Reunion scheduled for Fort Worth, Texas 17-21 May 1989 is: **BOB VICKERS**, Chairman, Reunion Project Office, B-24-50th Anniversary, 6424 Torreon Drive N.E., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109. **FRED EPPLEN**, 63rd, Aurora, CO., is one of several who take their reunion seriously. **FRED** has contacted several local and National publications (including Ann Landers), with copy for their publications concerning our reunion coming up. We would appreciate your assistance in getting the word to your local papers about the dates (Oct 5-9) of the reunion, and the place, Dayton, Ohio. You can give me as a contact: **LLOYD BOREN**, Secty, Tr., 43rd Bomb Group Assn. Inc., 102 Beechwood, Universal City, Texas 78148, Phone - 512-658-5978. This has gotten us good results in the past as well as new members.

Our Vice/Pres. **DALE BARR**, 403rd, has been busy searching out new members, his latest find was **JOSEPH T. ABBAS**, who actually lives on the outskirts of Dayton, I have put him on the Roster, but he can't remember what Squadron he was in. Can anybody help.

Last but certainly not least, I received a nice letter from one of our most faithful and well liked Associate Members, **MARCIA BRENNEMAN**. **MARCIA** has been writing a book on her uncle **WALTER BRENNEMAN**, 43rd, KIA during our period in WWII. While the book is about **WALTER** and his last mission, indirectly, the 43rd will be involved also. **MARCIA** wanted to share some good news with us. The **LILLY ENDOWMENT, INC.**, notified her that she was one of only 75 elementary-secondary teachers in Indiana from a field of 600, who will receive a grant to promote continuing self-enrichment programs for teachers. With this money, **MARCIA** hopes to be able to complete the research needed for her book. Congratulations **MARCIA**, I'm sure you deserved it. Incidentally, **MARCIA**, who has missed only one reunion, plans to see us all in Dayton, and will probably make the 5th AF Dedication in June.

The best of health and happiness to all.

Bill Wilson and Mary Lois, Pres.  
Drawer M, Snyder, Texas 79549  
Phone 915-573-6784

Lloyd Boren and Helen, Sect./Tr.  
102 Beechwood, Universal City, TX 78148  
Phone 512-658-5978

Dick Hennig and Jane, Reunion Chairman  
36 John Ave., New Carlisle, OH 45344  
Phone 513-845-0030