

# FORTY THIRD BOMB GROUP ASSN. INC.

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63rd Sqdn.



64th Sqdn.



65th Sqdn.



403rd Sqdn.

## 43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

30th EDITION - February 1989

From BILL WILSON

Here we go again. I received over 300 pieces of mail this time, lots of dues came in but still too many did not pay. Maybe missing this newsletter will get them on the ball.

First off, we hope each of you had a great Christmas and most important, a very healthy New Year. Good health will bring about a happy New Year.

ALTON "DOUG" LEAMAN, 65th, sent me a lucky horse he made out of clothes pins. All I have to do is rub it, go to the track, put \$2.00 down, and then I'll be rich. I sure hope I rub the right spot.

DALE BARR, 403rd, sends a progress report on putting our things at SAC'S museum. It looks as if he may be able to work something out. DALE talked with his radio operator, CHARLIE MARVEL, after a 45 year lay off, and CHARLIE is going to try to make Colorado Springs this fall. Also, DALE had a note from Father Shea; he's still praying for a trip to Colorado Springs this fall. Father, I've put a little Methodist prayer on you from time to time. Sure hope it works.

JACK FAERBER, 65th, sends LLOYD and I the Newport Navallog Paper. Say JACK, I think we may have been in the wrong outfit. JACK is another Life Member. He says he is walking at least six to twelve miles a day, and his health is on a steady course since the problem he had last July. Keep it up JACK.

GARNETT PEELING, 65th, says a big thank you for the crew that put on the Dayton Reunion (mostly JANE and DICK HENNIG, 64th). He also wants a copy of "BLACK JACK'S LAST MISSION". I'll try and find out if it will be for sale. Sorry our newsletter was late and you didn't get the information in time for the TV show.

The Memorial Fund got several nice donations. EDMUND KISELICA, Ordinance section, JIM and YOSHIKO BROWN, 63rd, FRANK JANKECK, 64th, HUGH and RUBY GLOVER, from Alto Georgia, ROGER and MARY PARRY, 65th, (in memory of Sgt. PAUL R. ELLIS, CHRISTOPHER SLONE, 403rd, PETER and MILDRED CARDARO, 63rd, GEORGE BARTA and BERT ADEN, both of the 403rd, TED JACINA, 64th, HENRY KOBOSKO, 63rd, HAROLD BARRETT, 403rd, (he lives in Tahoka, about 75 miles northwest of Snyder.), HARRY and RACHEL URBAN, sent in money for the memorial along with HOWARD and LORRAINE SHOMO, 64th, EDWIN and MARGARET WOJDAK, 64th, IRVING SAGOR, 63rd, GERALD NEWMAN, 63rd, (GERALD also sent in back dues, current dues, and everything else). Thanks very much, GERALD. BILL and ELIZABETH SPENCER, 403rd, sent a gift in memory of Sgt. RICHARD V. FOLKES, 403rd, KIA April 1944. BILL had returned to the States by then so he needs information anyone might have on the passing of Sgt. FOLKES. Sgt. FOLKES' mother is still alive and hopes after all these years she might know something of her son's passing. Please send any information to: WILLIAM R. SPENCER, 3340 D. North Crest Road, Doraville, GA 30340.

KENNETH ENGEL, 64th, sent in a nice gift, along with JOHN S. FAERBER, 65th, KENNETH MEAD, 63rd, and HUGH and DOT JONES, 63rd. HUGH and DOT, are from Norfolk, Virginia, and can help put on the 91' Reunion.

A very nice donation to the Memorial Fund from JAMES J. CONWAY, 63rd, of San Marino, California. It's appreciated very much.

HARRY URBAN, 403rd, is doing a great job on the next reunion. LLOYD has gotten bids on the bronze plaques and we have the money to pay for it. (Thanks to everyone).

MATT HOLOHAN, 64th, left his files, etc., in Dayton. I picked them up and brought them to Snyder, then mailed them to him in Seminole, Florida. Now MATT'S back looking for more 43rd people. Good job, MATT.

BILL "RADAR" and VIRGINIA HOOVER, 63rd, put up a good political fight. Came in second, that's not bad for a first try. I just wish we could all vote in Osceola County, Florida. You would have walked away with first place. See you two in Colorado Springs.

Had a nice Christmas card from JANE and RUSS BURNETT, 64th, They're from Conway, Mass. and got 6 inches of snow the day they mailed the card. I guess they got the White Christmas we were all dreaming about.

MIKE and SIGRUN DENEGAN, 64th, sent best Christmas wishes to all from Tampa, Florida.

National Geographic Society is still trying to get the names of the crew on the B-17 wing that appeared in the April 1988 publication. Please send any information you have to me and I will forward it. The picture is thought to be RALPH DE LOACH, 63rd, and his crew on BLACK JACK'S LAST MISSION.

ODIS and BARBARA CLEERE, 403rd, are still enjoying the Dayton Reunion. Lots of good memories, etc. Try Colorado Springs, it's going to be the best yet.

PAUL and CAROLYN COBER, 403rd, spent Thanksgiving with their daughter in Austin. She is finishing 20 years in the Air Force, and may call it quits. On the way home, they stopped in Memphis and had lunch with MIRON and MARIE DUKES, 403rd. They plan to see us in Colorado Springs.

DICK WOODS, 63rd, turned transportation officer, says, "Let's go anywhere". He has several trips planned for 89. If some of you want to get a trip up, call DICK, he's a good boy.

I had a call the other night and received a report that LEO A. CARLIN, 65th, had a stroke. Take a minute and send him a get well card. (Rd 2 Box 124H, Burgettstown, PA 15021). We all hope for a speedy recovery.

JOHN and GENEVIEVE ROCHE, 64th, send Christmas and New Year's greetings to their 43rd family. Had a great time in Dayton. JOHN, start saving your money for Colorado Springs. It should be the best ever. If GEORGE WHITE had mouths the deal, don't pay any attention.

Speaking of Colorado Springs, JEAN and BETTY JACK, 403rd, report the piggy bank is already started for the trip.

FRED and MARGARET BLAIR, 63rd, send season greetings to each of us from Down Under in Aussieland. Some more super nice 43rd folks.

DON MAYER, 64th, sent a nice memorial gift, DON was JOHN PARRAN'S radio operator. Thanks for the Christmas card.

A nice letter from WILLIAM "BILL" PERKINS, JR., in Kettering, Ohio. BILL was in the 63rd. Maybe he has heard of GEORGE WHITE. BILL has six kids (even one in Texas), and all are doing well. He's still working and enjoying it very much. Good report BILL.

FRANKLIN and LUCILLE GREEN, 63rd, taught chemistry after he returned from the Air Force. Five kids and four grandchildren at last count. He has lived the last eight years in Dayton, Washington. (That's where the Green Giant grows his asparagus).

DELBERT "SMITTY" SMITH, 63rd, called and said that JOHN and BOB PAZ, brothers of MIKE PAZ, want to be Associate members. MIKE, was KIA with KEN MC CULLAR. SMITTY took a swim with DE LOACH on BLACK JACK'S LAST MISSION. Hang tough, SMITTY.

DORIS and BOB BUTLER, 63rd, report that HELEN and LLOYD BOREN, 65th, stopped by after the Dayton Reunion; also, KEN and MAURINE BECKSTROM, 403rd. They had a nice visit. DORIS reports that BOB is trying hard to be a good boy. Had a great time at the Reunion, and wished they had more time for a visit. We hope to add a day or two at Colorado Springs.

DONALD and LOVEDA AILES, Hdqrs., sent in some funds for the memorial. Thanks very much.

LLOYD and I are trying to get BILL BOLY, our radio operator, to Colorado Springs. We were all on DUTCH EHLER'S crew in the 65th. We're also working on DOC BRYANT our navigator. I guess it's hard to get a good navigator out of Concord, California. Sure would like to see you fellows.

BILL and MARY EATON, 403rd, sent me a good report on their six kids. They're very proud, and should be. A super bunch of grandkids coming on. I think LLOYD BOREN told me BILL was going to back him up on our computer. BILL, like most 43rd fellows, has had a very interesting life, and it's still going on. Good show BILL.

ROGER and AUDREY KETTLESON, 64th, continue to be strong support for me. They reported on the 5th Air Force meeting in Las Vegas and also made the 5th AF Memorial meeting. NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, could not make it. No memorial at this time in Port Moresby. Government is just so-so. Maybe later with stable government. No wall yet at the Air Force Academy for the 5th Air Force and it's groups. Maybe later. ROGER continues to turn in excellent work. Thanks from all of us.

GEORGE and ANNE WEICHLEIN, 65th, sent a picture of the memorial program at Dayton. Also, I think bought me a beer in Dayton. Thanks very much, I wish GEORGE WHITE was that nice.

JOHN "RED" and JULE HANLON, 65th, couldn't make the Dayton reunion, but thanks everyone for the B-17 post card. Also for all the other notes, cards, and calls. "RED" is mad at me. They have had big rains that he says were made up in Texas. We would love to have some of them back. All of Texas is really dry. Get well JOHN, and we will see you in Colorado Springs. God Bless.

I just can't let this pass. Our ex-fearless leader, "COL" GEORGE WHITE, is pushing for a plaque at Kings Cross. Could it be that that's where GEORGE did most of his fighting?

A nice note from FRANK HOHMANN, 65th, flight engineer for JAY ROUSEK. They are in Florida for the winter and will be back in New Jersey in the summer. Sounds like a great program.

CARL DRAKE, wants to be an Associate Member. He is the son of MACK and FRANCES DRAKE, 65th. Both are deceased. We would love to have you, CARL.

COL. PETTUS, our real C.O., reports his daughter is a licensed A&E, and is helping rebuild the B-24 in New England. Also recalls our days in the RCAF, yes, our C.O. at Defoe was Group Captain Delahaye and he was a "Retread". (WWI). We referred to him as the "Belgian Hot Foot". Thanks for the memories.

CLARA MARIE and "CHUNKY" WILFERT, 63rd, second M.O.S. playing Santa Claus in Mareeba, sent us some "Cajun Yams". They were a real treat. DON BAKER, 65th, stopped by CHUNKY'S, and got 200 pounds of them. He says the fishing is great, but duck hunting is only fair. All in all, another super year. That's the only way to go CHUNKY.

A dues check received from ROSE KUBASEK, Assoc. member, widow of STEVE KUBASEK. She wants to continue receiving the newsletter, and since dues were paid, she will also receive the roster. ROSE has been marked "COMP" from 79 on. We do not have STEVE'S squadron, and would appreciate someone letting LLOYD know.

PFC GEORGE WHITE, I mean Col. GEORGE WHITE, received a letter from BRUCE HOY. He is in Australia, Beachmere, about 45 miles north of Brisbane. The way things are in New Guinea, he's pleased to be out. BRUCE is going to co-author the 43rd History with LARRY HICKEY. He will do the B-17 part and LARRY will do the B-24 part. They should make a good team. They need help on the 403rd B-17 that crashed on take off at Mareeba. The serial number is needed. Also, the serial number of B-17 JEAN JACK ditched off Urasi island. Send me any information you have and I'll get it to him. BRUCE is working (part-time) with the U.S. Army Graves Team - just cleared the C-47 crew - the report was in most U.S. papers a few weeks back. He hopes to work some kind of program for air fare for Colorado Springs Reunion. He wants to meet as many of us as possible.

We just received mail returned marked "Deceased - return to sender" sent to STAN ENSBERG, pilot in the 63rd from Toronto, South Dakota. Our Sympathy.

KEITH SKELTON, 403rd, wants to know why there is more talk about B-17's instead of B-24's. I don't know KEITH, maybe the B-17 bunch are older and can't do anything but talk now. KEITH joined the Group at Nadzab in early 1944. He would like a picture of the Dayton Memorial Bench. (I sorta imagine quite a few more would also. I know some real good shots were taken, and if someone who took a good picture would volunteer to provide them at cost plus postage, let me know and I will pass the information on). KEITH graduated from twin engine school in Marfa, Texas, and last year made a pilgrimage down there. The flight strips were apparently still there although the area was fenced off with "No Trespassing" signs. The only thing left were a couple of cement posts which originally stood on either side of the entrance gate. No memorial, no nothing. It's a shame that a site that is still existing has no reminder of what it meant to the war effort.

JIMMIE and VERGIE HALE, 63rd, started as JIM MURPHY'S co-pilot, then FOLMER SOGAARD'S co-pilot, then got his own crew. He made a few missions with STAN ENSBERG. Just learned of STAN'S passing. JIM is all set for Colorado Springs.

BOB LAMOND, 65th, close friend of CLYDE VAN WORMER, reports that CLYDE passed away last year. BOB was recalled for the Korean program. There he ended up back a bombardier. Good report BOB.

ELEUTERIO NAVA, 65th, was on RALPH POULSEN'S crew. He got hurt when they ditched, and has since fallen and is partially paralyzed, and in a wheel chair in the Veteran's Hospital in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. Some of you fellows send Eleuterio a note at 2317 Cedros Circle, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

ALTON "DOUG" LEAMAN, 65th, sent in an order blank on some nice aircraft pictures. One was a B-24 "Betsy" on a mission to Wewak. The size is 24 x 36, priced \$4.98, or 3 for \$12.98. Place - Nut Tree Prints, Nut Tree, CA 95696. Thanks DOUG.

ALLEN CLATWORTHY, 63rd, wants a report on the Memorial Program - so here goes. The 43rd put up the most money on the big 5th Air Force Memorial at the Air Force Museum at Dayton. Next, the township of Mareeba and the 43rd built a big beautiful Memorial at the Mareeba Airdrome. The Mareeba project was completed in April of 1988. (For the late comers, Mareeba is in Queensland, Australia). Then in October the 43rd dedicated our Memorial Bench at the Air Force Museum. Next October (89), a Memorial Plaque at the Air Force Academy plus a donation to help build the wall that the Plaques will go on. Possible other sites - Bangor Maine Airport, Port Moresby, when Government gets settled down, and Langley Field, Virginia, where we hope to be in 1991.

CLINT BRASSER, 65th, would like to hear from his crew: Pilot, WELDON YOST, Ohio, co-pilot FENNER E. BRAWNELL, New Hampshire, Navigator ALLEN B. CHRISMAN, Illinois, bombardier WILLIAM K. SCHENCK, Red Cloud, Nebraska, gunners, PAUL J. HERBERT, Chicago, Illinois, JAMES GALLO, Salem, Mass., KENNETH C. COOK, no address, and WALTER WEBERG, Walla Walla, Wash. Any word, let CLINT know.

GENE and LUCILLE STRAW, Hdqrs., was pleased to find our group. He left the Air Force in August 1945, and put in 32 years as Captain at Transworld Airlines. He retired in 1976. He ended up in Gridley, California growing Kiwi fruit. Gene did you get an Ok from the Aussie's?. New roster will be on its way soon.

DAVID JENSKY, Hdqrs., wants more news from the Headquarters people. DAVE, maybe you can borrow DALE BARR from the 403rd. He loves to write long letters. For me, I get enough reports from "Col." SI MICHAELS, Hdqrs. He loves to take a bite out of my rear. Come to think of it, SI must be sick, no complaints in January.

JAMES E. SMYTH, 403rd. His wife BARBARA reports JIM had a stroke and passed away on the 5th of December, 1988. The 43rd joins you in your sorrow. BARBARA, if you would like to be an Associate member, we would be pleased to have you.

EVERETT and GRACE PERKINS, 64th, was on CHARLES GIDDING'S crew in the 30th Squadron of the 19th Bomb Group, and then over to the 43rd. Enjoyed seeing old friends at Dayton. He and O.K. COULTER teamed up at Hickam in 1939, and he was General RAMEY'S flight engineer on a B-18. See you in Colorado Springs, EVERETT.

JOSEPH KARMOSAY, 403rd, reports that NELSON MC DANIEL, 403rd, is in the V.A. Hospital and would sure like to hear from some of you. His address is Room 127, Building 409, V.A. Administration Center, 4100 West Third St., Dayton, Ohio 45417. Thanks JOSEPH, for the information. The 43rd will come through.

PHIL WELCH, Hdqrs., reports the passing of FRED SCHOETTLER, Hdqrs. Thanks PHIL for the information. We will all miss FRED.

NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, wants to remind everyone of the 50th anniversary of the B-

24. Remember, May in Fort Worth, and September in San Diego. The B-24 did a lot more work for the 43rd than the B-17, so let's turn out for this, if you can. Damn, that's hard for a B-17 throttle jockey to say!. NEIL sent a letter from Dr. ARVID J. HOUGLUM, a B-24 pilot in the 64th, who just got the word that the 43rd was well and going. He plans on retiring this summer and will make his home in Grandview, Texas. He must be one hell of a smart fellow. (LLOYD has more from ARVID later).

AMERICO "REE" and IRENE NARDINO, 403rd, sent in \$100.00 for a life membership. Hey GEORGE, he likes the news letter - hopes to make the reunion this fall. He wants to see and or hear from some special fellows: EVERETT LIND, 403rd, JOHN SEDLANDER, 403rd, Mrs. JAMES MORTON, JOE HAMENO, last address Elizabeth, NJ, and JOHN HANKEY.

DON CROWE, 64th, also has become a life member. He wants to thank BOB BUTLER, 63rd, for his Memorial Address. DON, we all say thanks to BOB for a job well done.

JAMES E. COLLIE, 65th First Sergeant in '45, wants to hear from some of the '45 bunch. Just found out about us. Give JAMES, a warm welcome. He also mentioned that Dr. MILTON "BUD" GUSACK, was his flight surgeon. I hadn't thought about it - DOC GUSACK spent the whole war over there. He was just too good to let come home. We hope you can make Colorado Springs DOC.

DICK HEMPHILL, 65th, sends in a sad report - EDDIE HAGAR, 65th radio section, passed away 31st August 1988. EDDIE was the cheerful blond from Boston. We will all miss EDDIE. If you get a chance, drop EDDIE'S wife ANNE a note. Her address is Route 1, Box 294, Trenton, Florida 32003.

MAX OSBORN, 65th, reports things are great in Wyoming. He was pleased that I called him a "loud mouth" in the last newsletter, but wants to sue me for referring to him as a misplaced Texan. MAX, law business must be slow in Wyoming if you are thinking of suing a busted used car salesman in Texas. MAX is pleased over Colorado Springs for our reunion. He wants to help, and we will let him know if we come up with something. We have several good men that live there, and they are doing a great job.

Sgt. Major J. A. HOLT, Hdqrs., our senior member, sends in another version of KEN'S MEN. He goes back to 1924, to Post Field, Lawton, Oklahoma with, then, 2nd Lt. KENNETH N. WALKER. And then, on to 5th Bomber Command with General WALKER. Their friendship and assignments serving together covered a 19 year span. J.A., I'm going with you, I think you have the facts. Take care, God Bless, and keep us on the right heading. P.S. JACK is back in Lawton.

BERNARD "BERNIE" WOLLIN, 64th, got with the group in January 1945. He sent in \$100.00 for a life membership - sold on the B-24's. 35 times it worked. BERNIE, that's a better test run than I give on used cars.

FORREST and GLADYS SUE SIEGEL, 65th, missed Dayton, but are all set for Colorado Springs. Got his radio operator's number and called him - just 44 years later. Good stuff. They were both on Dr. JOHN KAPITAN'S crew.

THEODORE "TED" ROMANOWSKI, 403rd, reports on Mareeba Butchers. He says his bombardier, THOMAS A WINROW, helped design it. Says the daisy cutter bombs used on the Geisha houses at Rabaul really got Tokyo Rose going. Some of the Jap brass got caught in the wrong place. TED, I will print a list of Presidential Citations and dates next letter.

CLARENCE CREAMER, 64th, on JOHN PARRON'S crew, had a bad go on number 6, but ended up finishing his missions. He remembers ART MULLIGAN, GEORGE JUOPPERI, and others.

ARMAND BLAIS, 64th, has a good report on the 64th patch. He designed it, and painted the "South Sea Raiders" patch on some of the flight jackets. Also did the Bob Hope thing on a B-24 when Bob and a USO team showed up. ARMAND says, like all of us, he is very proud to have served in the 43rd.

JOHN W. BERTRAN, 65th, was pleased to find some of his friends names in the last news letter. He was tent mates with PAT FREEMAN, PARKER FLOYD, W.W. FRAZIER, and MAX OSBORN. Gosh, I hope JOHN never finds out MAX turned out to be a lawyer. JOHN flew 53 missions with 19 different pilots. That's about like me JOHN. Were we that good, that much in demand, or is GEORGE WHITE correct. He thinks HERB CONGERS, 65th navigator, is CHUCK CONNERS of "Rifleman". Any one know?

VINCENT STOPCZYNSKI, Hdqrs., went to check on FATHER SHEA. He says he is in a



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nice place and getting along fairly well. He will continue to check on him for us. Thanks VINCENT.

DICK and JANE HENNIG, 64th, sent in final report on the Dayton Reunion. JANE did a great job, and helpful DICK was in the way too much. We love you both and are real glad DICK is getting over his operation. Thanks again.

WILLIAM K. WALKER, 65th, is a new member, and he got two more of the old bunch, CLARENCE STUHR, 65th, and GEORGE ENGLEMAN, 65th. BILL ended up as Lt. Gen. JAMES H. DOLITTLE'S flight engineer. Good show, BILL.

DOUG LEAMAN has another good deal. He has made 4" x 6" prints of the memorial at Mareeba, so if you want some, send DOUG \$3.50 to cover his cost. A lot cheaper than air fare to down under.

CARL AVERILL, 403rd, could not make the Dayton reunion, but hopes to be well enough for Colorado Springs. CARL has a 19 verse poem written by Capt. CARPENTER, and helped by remarks from Major SMITH. We will have it at the next reunion.

PHIL WELCH, Hdqrs., wants to know who was with the 43rd the longest. He suggests PAUL BIDINGER, Hdqrs., January '42 to October '45. Also another long-timer, LOU ALPE, Hdqrs., January '42 to May '45. PHIL talked to several who that are all set for Colorado Springs.

BOB ROTH, 403rd, wants to be sure we have BILL DITZ'S, 63rd, widow listed as an associate member so she can continue to receive the newsletter. Thanks BOB, LLOYD has taken care of it.

ROBERT B. MURPHY, 63rd and 64th, got home November 1, 1943 to Tinker Field with WILLIAM WELCH'S crew. Flew home in B-17E - "LITTLE BUSTER UPPER". Tinker did a 1000 hour inspection on the plane and found a 20MM hole in the main spar.

RALPH SCOTT, 65th, put in nine years as tour guide for "SHOO SHOO BABY" while it was being restored. RALPH started with the 43rd at Langley, then to Bangor. He was in radio school when the Queen Mary sailed, and ended up in England. He still wants to be a part of the 43rd. Glad to have you, RALPH.

DR. ALBERT CARP, 63rd Flight Surgeon, reports a little problem with making Dayton, but thinks for sure he will be in Colorado Springs. He continues to enjoy good health and is still working. He sends his best to all of us and enjoys the newsletters, remembering old friends and old times.

DORWIN "DOR" WILSON, 403rd, was in Evansville, Indiana to attend a wedding. Some lady asked him if he had ever been there before and he said no, but that his Flight Surgeon, GENE AUSTIN, was from there. GENE was a relative of hers. DOR and wife LOUISE got to spend a couple of hours with DR. GENE AUSTIN and his wife HELEN. Real good time by all.

ROGER and CATHERINE SULLIVAN, 403rd, are having trouble recalling very many names, sure remember PAUL COBER, CHARLES DOWNER, and CHARLES COLE. ROGER, they are all three good boys. Try thinking about knotheads, goof-offs, etc. Surely we had some of those. Do make Colorado Springs, it will be well worth your time.

EDWARD GAMMILL, 63rd, sent in Life Membership. Feeling good and looking forward to Colorado Springs.

LON H. WEYLAND, 64th, at 0500 hours, the other morning was re-reading the newsletter. There was a report on his tent mate ARMAND "MOOCH" MANCINI. Worth the price to reflect on their days at Milne Bay - getting run out, etc.

LOUIS JEDD, 403rd, sent in Life membership. Hopes to use it a long time. His wife thought he might get cheated, but LOUIS says she is still buying green bananas. Hang tough young man.

BOB ROTH, 403rd, reports the passing of LLOYD R. DEMMY, 403rd. LLOYD and wife PATRICIA, had a big time in Dayton. Got to see BILL SOLOMON for the first time in 40 years. BOB, BILL, MYRON DUKES, LEE LOUGHREY AND BELFORD FRISBY, made a nice donation to the Cancer Fund in his memory. LLOYD will be pleased to put PATRICIA on the Associate list.

W.F. "BILL" CROFT, 63rd, B-24 pilot in '44 and '45, finished up a Ie Shima, and is attempting to get his crew to Colorado Springs. CLAIR H. BLACK, bombardier, and ROY L. PERRY, engineer, we have on the roster, but he needs help with CLARENCE BROKKE, not sure of spelling, from Superior, Wisconsin, LOUIS E. STEINFELD, of Mayfield, Kentucky, and LEE BASS JR., Rt. 2, Cushing, Oklahoma.

ELIZABETH TRUE reports the passing of WILLIAM H. TRUE, 65th operations, 3rd December 1988. BILL had been having a rough time of it. We will remember BILL for the good times.

HAROLD W. YEOMANS, 403rd, lost his wife SUNNY, 21st November 1988, after a long illness. HAROLD flew with CHARLIE MARVEL on BILL SMITH'S crew. WALTER BRENNEMAN was the co-pilot. He has tried to help MARCIA BRENNEMAN, Assoc., on her book about WALTER.

Received word that the 403rd and 13th Recon had a reunion in September 1988. Fifty on was the head count. Next reunion September 8 - 10, 1989, same place, RYLD Center, Aurora, Nebraska. HAROLD and SUNNY had wanted to make it last year.

JOHN F. FRAZEE, 63rd, passed away 9th November 1988. His wife, GENEVIEVE, advised me. We will all miss JOHN, may his soul rest in peace.

GLEN and DELLA MAE REAM, 64th, are sorry they missed the Dayton reunion, but had cataracts removed - doing fine. Now enjoys the newsletters very much. See, GEORGE WHITE, one fellow likes it - give me time yankee.

GEORGE and MARJORIE LYNCH, 64th, enjoyed the reunion in Dayton. Think Colorado Springs will be the best ever. Signed on for Life membership and thinks it's a hell of a bargain. I might could sell GEORGE a used car.

ROBERT W. MC VEIGH, 403rd. In '44 he got reported missing in action twice. Wants to let LLOYD know he is not missing, and count him in good standing. BOB, we have you marked present and accounted for.

HERBERT C. "HERB" PFLUEGER, 63rd, was all set for the Dayton reunion when the roof fell in. Has the roof back in good shape and looking forward to a great '89". Was on Major EARL BUTT'S crew. EARL was C/O of the 63rd at that time. Hang tough HERB, and have a good '89.

CARL A. REUTINGER, 64th statistical officer, 1942 Iron Range to 1945 Philippines, remembers KETTLESON, MULLIGAN, FATHER SHEA, DOC BLANK, HOLSEY and REEVES. Said he has forgotten some of the names. CARL, I thought I was the only one that did that.

JIM and GLADYS RODELLA, 64th, send thanks to DICK and JANE HENNIG for a great reunion in Dayton. Good to see RALPH GRUBB and others.

HULBERT "HUB" PINKERTON, 64TH, started with the 19th, and recalls Capt. NYES and Capt. HUBBARD, as armament officers. Glad to see BOB GOODWIN on the roster. HUB was tent mates with JESSE FULTON, FRITZ DOEHREL and FLOYD BRENNER. Thinking about Colorado Springs. Don't miss this one HUB.

LELAND and BERNADINE MLNARIK, Hdqrs., enjoy the newsletters - sometimes not too many names they remember. Should be a bunch this time LEE. Had over 300 letters, phone calls, etc.

WARREN ADAMS, 63rd, was at his 50th class reunion which was the same time as Dayton. His class reunion was a big success. Working on Colorado Springs. WARREN, you are right, KENNETH KRUSE is your friend from the 63rd. Drop him a line.

B.M. and LILLIAN BRISBY, 403rd, missed Dayton. LILLIAN had a little surgery. Back going strong now. Hope for Colorado Springs this fall. Sure enjoyed the newsletter. That's 2 COL. WHITE, and if you and CY will give me time, it might catch on.

WAYNE and JOAN CALDWELL, 403rd, still active in his work. Duty kept them from Dayton. He likes to run a mile or two a day. He hopes his work won't keep him from next reunion. We do too, WAYNE.

Received word that Lt. Col. HAROLD G. COWAN, retired, passed away 15th August 1988. He was a pilot in the 63rd and 64th. This report was received from HUGH W. GLOVER, 63rd and 64th Group engineer.

CHARLES "CHUCK" EDWARDS, 65th, ended up in a wheel chair and couldn't make Dayton. Hopes to be up and about in time for Colorado Springs. We are betting you make it CHUCK.

DAVE HASSEMER, Hdqrs., put in his thoughts on Mareeba Butchers. He goes with BILL EATON, 403rd. He first heard the name when he was in the 93rd Sqdn., 19th BG. They left, and the 63rd, 64th, and 65th moved in and the name stayed with Mareeba. DAVE says the 403rd were the last at Mareeba. So if that gives them the

title, so be it. Next, "KEN'S MEN". DAVE was in the tower when KEN MC CULLAR bit the dust. Reported in to Col. RAMEY. RAMEY was distraught over the crash. Asked DAVE if the 64th would mind if the group took the 64th's nickname for the Group. So it goes. Thanks DAVE for your input, maybe this will help clear the air on these two points.

ROBERT DEWITT, 63rd, couldn't make dayton - was tied down at the Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant. He got a new hip in 1988. Final retirement is 13th January 1989. Says tell JIM HARCROW, 65th, and the rest of the golfers to look out - he's back. BOB, it tells in the roster if a member is from the 40's - 50's or whatever.

NUNCIO BONINO, 64th, wants to say hi to all the group. Says we will remember him as the only BONINO in the whole group. Fine Italian name. Glad I don't have to call the roll. See you in Colorado Springs.

ROBERT "BOB" WHITE, 65th, sent in a \$100.00 life membership. Thinks he will get shot by a jealous husband at 99. Don't worry BOB, he may miss. Besides, if what you indicate is true, you will probably be able to outrun him. BOB spent three days with his pilot, VERN GASTON, they had a real good visit. Also, in Dayton, stopped by to see FRANK WHITE, his old C/O. BOB and PATRICIA have checked real close, and assure me they are no kin to GEORGE WHITE. What a relief.

FRANK and LOIS JANKECH, 64th line chief, sent in a big donation for the memorial. FRANK wants to thank FATHER SHEA for marrying them in the Post Chapel at Bangor. Must have done a good job. Our best to both of you.

(Note from LLOYD) - Seeing the title "64th line chief", reminds me that in the last newsletter I said that LON WEYLAND, 64TH, 300 Mitchell St., Hot Springs, Arkansas 71919, was looking for information on a 64th fellow who worked on the line. The fellow had a nick name of "SEABISCUIT. I mistakenly called him "RACE HORSE". Anyone having information about SEABISCUIT, especially an address, contact LON.

KENNETH GISSONNE, 403rd, missed Dayton. Was pulling duty in the hospital. Wants to hear from any of the old crew on a mission to Wewak 27th August 1943. Aircraft - B-24 "RIO RITA" - pilot, PUTNAM TAYLOR - co-pilot, WOLF - radio operator, MARREL. Seems the Japs were not too friendly - got shot up.

CLARA JEAN BEISTY reports TOM, 65th, passed away 8th July 1988. Blood Clot. Says TOM enjoyed the newsletters and so does she. They are paid for this year so will receive the roster. She will be marked COMP as an associate member from now on. CLARA JEAN, we are pleased to have you. Some of you fellows drop her a note.

E.P. "BILL" INGALLS, 64th, found about us through GEORGE RORABACH, 64th. GEORGE did one hell of a sales job on BILL. BILL sent in \$100.00 for a life membership. Say GEORGE, have you ever thought about a career in the used car business. BILL is still very active in Real Estate. He would like to hear from his old crew, FRANCIS HILL, JOHN SHERWIN, MERVIN JOHNSON, ROBERT JAMES, LARRY FUSSELL, JOSEPH DIMAURO, EDWIN FORD, and GEORGE OLIVER. Any help?

CHARLES WIEDER, 64th, navigator on ART MULLIGAN'S crew, reports the day of his letter, 6th January 1989, was 45 years since he flew his 41st mission. made the trip in B-24D #42-73166. He and ART made the 5th Air Force Memorial Dedication at Dayton in June. Will see us in Colorado Springs this fall.

GERALD EGGER, 63rd, carved a B-17 and entered it in their Fair. Received a purple Superior ribbon. He was interviewed and told about the B-17 and the 43rd Bomb Group. Good on you, GERALD.

MIRON DUKES, 403rd, has been a little under the weather the last year or two, but has high hopes of getting back to hitting on all 4 in '89. Has had a nice visit with PAUL and CAROLYN COBER, B.M. and LILLIAN FRISBY and BOB ROTH'S wife. This got him back smiling. Take care MIRON.

ROGER and MARY PARRY, 65th, sent in memorial in memory of Sgt. PAUL R. ELLIS, KIA at Port Moresby November 1943. He wants to hear from any of Capt. FRANK M. WHITE'S crew. They were there in '43 and '44.

JOHN COOP, 403rd, reports in from Australia. Says BILL EATON is correct on the Mareeba Butchers thing. I hate it when BILL gets so many O.K.'s. He is sure spit and polish without much help: JOHN also wants the circling B-24 story to show it was Capt. WILLIAM R. GOWDY, SN 0-345767, and the plane, "RIO RITA". He calls on the crew to step forward and confirm this report. Let's cool this deal, we have Australia and the United States all shook up. Thanks JOHN. Best regards to all of you Down Under.



LOREN E. JACKSON, 64th, sent in some great news - The Aviation Cadet Alumni Association is run for free by two retired officers, just to provide current addresses of ex-pilot cadets. Send in your flight class and training locations, Primary, Basic, Advanced, to either HARRY C. BRADSHAW, RFD #1, NEWMARKET, NH 03857 -OR- ROBERT C. WHITE, 54 SETON TRAIL, ORMOND BEACH, FL 32074. Both have the same information. Thanks LOREN for the information. NOTE - The following is a brief description of the Association that LLOYD received from Robert C. White for insertion in our newsletter.

The Aviation Cadet Alumni Association was initiated by the late Ralph E. Parker (43-E, Napier) to provide ex-cadets the current addresses of former classmates. Retired officers Harry Bradshaw and Bob White are continuing this NO-DUES, non-profit endeavor as a tribute to their fellow birdmen. Former pilot cadets are invited to submit their Flight Class, and Primary, Basic and Advanced locations. Approximately 13,000 names are now available by Flight Class to participants who send a stamped envelope to either of the above. Both maintain identical information to guard against loss. Time is no longer on our side and active participation will be welcomed especially by your classmates. Under no circumstances will commercial use be made of this information.

NORMAN FRIEDBERG, 64th, advises of the passing of HAROLD BRECHT, 64th pilot and C/O. NORM was Group navigator, and flew his missions with HAROLD. both stayed in the service and from time to time their paths crossed. To MAXINE and family - we feel your loss. May God be with you. NORMAN and EVELYN, get your act together and report in to Colorado Springs this fall.

JAMES and ANNE SHROPSHIRE, 65th, write that ANNE got her back fixed in '88, and JIM goes in for repairs the middle of this month. Both will be back and strong for Fall reunion. JIM wants to know if any one knows how and where DANIEL CROMER is.

CHRISTOPHER C. SLONE, 403rd, got to Dayton, got sick, so not much visiting. Will do better next reunion. Wants to correct his MOS as listed in the roster. Was not a pilot, but a gunner. Flew on PAUL PASKVAN'S crew. Joined up with the 403rd at Clark Field 1st April 1945.

CLAUDE SACHSE, 64th, reports the passing of his wife, OPAL, on the 20th of November 1988. Had a heart attack at home. CLAUDE recalls how much he and OPAL have enjoyed the reunions, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. Sends in \$100.00 for life membership. Hang tough, We are thinking about you.

DICK HEMPHILL, 65th, missed Dayton but caught KEN TAYLOR in Lexington, Virginia on his way home, and got all the news on the reunion. Going to write ERVIN CHAMPEAU and ask for a little of the profit off the 65th STILL at Dobo Dura. DICK helped ERWIN build it then arranged transportation for it to Nadzab. At Government expense. Their best batch was sugar-water and bakers yeast. Tot the yeast from a sea bee outfit. 170 proof!!

HARRIS N. LIEN, 65th, after retiring from the Air Force has been doing lots of traveling between trips. CLAUDE ROBINSON, 65th, and RUBY JOHNSTON, 65th, told him about our group. He has traveled to Finland, Norway, Turkey, Egypt, Greece, Russia and so on. Wanted AL FAIR'S address, AL was his co-pilot when they ditched in New Guinea. It's in the roster HARRIS.

Got a picture of O.K. COULTER giving the Confederate Air Force B-17 and 43rd story to the Zanesville Rotary Club. Couldn't find a better man. Always nice to hear about my favorite flight engineer.

DOUGLAS WACHS, 63rd, reports on WENDELL DICKENSON'S crew reunion in Dayton September 23rd-25th. WENDELL'S crew members that met roll call were DOUG, co-pilot, GERALD MILLER, navigator, RAY HOCEVAR, flight engineer, CAROL CHERRY, wife of LOYAL, he died in 1987, WALTER GESSNER, radar, WILLIAM MC KINNEY, gunner, ROBERT HILL, tail gun, JOSE LEVY, nose gun (JOSE came all the way from Lima, Peru). FRANK KAMPS died in 1980. A terrific turn out, and a great time.

GEORGE WHITE has agreed to take on LARRY HICKEY and BRUCE HOY, the two that are going to write the history of the 43rd Bomb Group. GEORGE seems to get along with LARRY. LLOYD and I have had no luck at this. BRUCE is easy to know and work with. LARRY has done one book that is real good. It sells for about \$75.00. I hope ours will be as good as it is. GEORGE maybe can get him on the ball. Henceforth, on all matters pertaining to the book, contact "Col." GEORGE WHITE, 81 Orchard Rd., Chatham, New Jersey 07928, phone 201-635-9438. WHITE, if you screw up, I'll bust you back to a private, so help me. Col. JIM PETTUS, our real C/O, has agreed to help GEORGE on the supervision of our book. JIM wants two paintings of B-17's, and two of B-24's. I have okayed this.

JOEL M. GRIFFIN, 403rd, was assigned to a made up crew of Lt. MC KAREN as the aircraft commander. MARK SMITH, was bombardier - OTTO RUSSELL was waist gunner - they were assigned a B-17 "TAXPAYERS PRIDE", and on June 24th left Moresby for Rabaul early morning the 26th. Dropped their bombs on the target, and as they were leaving the target, tail gunner, GRIFFIN reported aircraft at 6 o'clock high. Shortly after that they were hit and caught on fire. Pilot reported things were Ok, and the next pass "TAXPAYER PRIDE" peeled off to the right, and with no report from the cockpit, JOEL GRIFFIN bailed out. No one else escaped. He landed in a tree and was picked up by natives at day break, and Japs at noon. In P.O.W. camp, the first prisoner he saw was Lt. JACK WISENER. A few days later they brought in Lt. JOSE HOLGUIN, 65th. They were cell mates. later JOEL was transferred to Japan. JOSE stayed the whole time in Rabaul. There were 12 moved with JOEL to Japan. Sgts. WINN and ENGELS, Capt. MARTIN, also DIAL and EDWARDS arrived Japan December 6th 1943. JOEL taught our two kids in Grade School. I knew he was a P.O.W., but only learned a month ago that he was in the 43rd. We live less than a mile from each other. His address is Rt. 3 Box 510, Snyder, Texas 79549, phone 915-573-4204.

A nice note from JOSE HOLGUIN, 65th. He thanked me for getting he and JOEL GRIFFIN together. They had fun recalling old times. Very interesting pair.

Late November, DALE and MARY BARR, LLOYD and HELEN BOREN met with MARY LOIS and I in Colorado Springs. We had the Colorado Springs people for dinner and to bring them up to date on the coming reunion. Attending were, VIC and ANNA MARIE FRANCO, 63rd, RICHARD and DELEDA MONTGOMERY, 63rd, CARL NELSON, 64th, RAP and JEANNE RAPISARDI, 65th, THOMAS and GEORGIA ROTE, 63rd, WILLIAM and BETTY WELSH, 403rd, along with HARRY and RACHEL URBAN. HARRY and RACHEL URBAN, 403rd, will be running the show at that end. All the other people are ready to help. We checked out hotels and motels and signed with the NEW MARRIOTT opening next month. Just for starters, \$110.00 rooms are going to be \$56.00 single or double, and not just for the reunion, but up to 10 days. This hotel is high above the city at the foot of Pike's Peak, close to the Garden of the Gods, and almost across from the Air Force Academy. See Colorado and headquarter at the Marriott. The program so far is sign-in Tuesday and Wednesday October 10th and 11th. Maybe Board of Directors meeting Tuesday night. Golf tournament Wednesday. Squadron meetings Wednesday night. Thursday morning, breakfast, then by bus to the Academy for a 10 o'clock dedication of our Memorial Plaque. Lunch at the Academy on your own, then a tour of the School. Pay as you go buffet Thursday night at the Marriott. Friday, several bus companies will have tours available, Pike's Peak, etc. during the day, then about 1500 hours, buses will take us, by way of Garden of the Gods, to the famous Flying W Ranch for a Chuck Wagon dinner and a darned good show. Tell Col. BUTLER to bring his new boots. Western wear or casual for all. Saturday morning a continental breakfast for all at the Marriott, and we have secured a block of 200 tickets to the Notre Dame vs Air Force game, and they will be available on a first come first served basis for \$17.00. Saturday night, dinner dance at the Marriott. Sunday morning we will have a Champagne Brunch to close out the reunion. This is a rough draft of the activities, but lets you know that HARRY and RACHEL have one hell of a deal cooked up. There are so many things to do and see in Colorado Springs, we are urging everyone to take a couple extra days at this room rate and see the sights. Several other things, the Marriott will provide, at no cost, Air port transportation. They will also run a shuttle to and from the mall. They also plan either Tuesday or Wednesday to throw a short party for those who have checked in. This is going to be a fun reunion.

For those of you who want to make the football game, get in touch with HARRY URBAN, 1602 Cresta Rd., Colorado Springs, Colorado 80906, phone 719-634-2917. Send no money now, but reserve your tickets now. If we know this far in advance that more want to attend, we may be able to get more tickets.

This reunion will cost a little more than the others, \$75.00 per person, but you are going to get more, and believe me, it's going to be worth it. Please, Please, do yourself a favor - say yes to Colorado Springs. The Memorial fund is ok. If you haven't made a donation, we still can use the money. This fund is handled by me here in Snyder, Texas.

LLOYD and HELEN BOREN, 65th, have been working like crazy getting dues in, Newsletter out, new roster, etc. Just a few more stars in their crown. From all of us, many thanks and God bless.

One last thought, when you get the new roster which will be mailed in April, take time to look through it and if an old buddy did not send in his \$10.00, let him know we miss him and want him in.

From LLOYD

We have added 27 new members since the last newsletter, but I will not be including them in this newsletter due to the fact that I will be working from this date to about the 15th of April on the 1989 roster. We presently have 1440 members, and, paid or not, they will be included in the new roster. This will allow you to check on former crew members or friends who have not paid, and give you the opportunity to pay for them if you desire.

Last month, I mailed a letter and self addressed envelope to all who had not paid as of that date, advising them that they were not showing paid on the computer. The response has been fairly good in this short time (about 625 letters were sent, and to date, about 250 of these replied). Practically all of those replying, understood the amount of work and money that goes into getting out the newsletters, the roster, and the four to five hours daily needed to keep the Association going, in addition to the time and effort necessary to set up and run the reunions. Many kind words were written, and these are appreciated. Only a couple of members wanted their names removed, and this was done. One sad note came from several widows informing us of the passing of members that we had not been aware had died. The notices will come later in this message.

As I explained to the board and to the membership present in Dayton, those members who are not paid will be dropped from the rolls starting about 3 months after the roster goes out. This will allow us to hear from any who are late getting in their dues. (These will be sent a newsletter and roster as we hear from them.)

I am going to suggest to the board that we find some way to make it easier to tell when dues are due. I realize that October to October does not make a lot of sense to many people. This came about primarily because those who make the reunions pay the next years dues at that time. We also were using October to October as our fiscal year. More on this when we reach a decision. Along this line, those of you who mailed in your dues, I'm sure, noticed that you did not receive a dues paid card this time. This was done in an effort to save money it should be unnecessary as your mailing label either says PAID after your name, or it is blank. This should be enough to alert you to your paid status.

Whatever is decided as to the date, I will try to insert a self-addressed envelope in the newsletter just prior to the date the dues will fall due. This will be sent to everybody, even those who are Life Members, or are paid ahead. This is to make it a little easier for me since I will not have to separate those who are paid up and those who are not.

Several things; Widows, who express a desire to continue receiving the newsletters, and Current or Former Commanding Officers of the 43rd are marked COMP. They receive the newsletter free. You may notice some are marked PAID, these have sent in dues, and will receive the roster also. Those who are marked COMP will not receive the roster. I would appreciate each of you looking at your name in the roster, when you receive it, and fill me in on any blank spots in the info we have on you. Also, look at the Squadron Unknown section, and let me know who goes where. Believe it or not, I get dues from some who are still in Squadron Unknown.

LATE NEWS

LOREN BATES, 403rd, who joined the group at Nadzab, says his crew was known as the "B" crew. BOWER, pilot, BERNSTEIN, co-pilot, BEITZ, engineer, BUCKINGHAM, waist gun, BOREM, waist gun, and BATES, radio operator. He and Lt. BOWER, contacted Scrub Typhus on Owi Island. BATES says that a large percentage of the group contacted it on Owi, and that it was new to the Medics. Once in the late 60's, on a flight physical, a flight surgeon told him after reviewing his medical records, "I know where you were during WWII, Owi or Biak as that was the only place they ever contacted that brand of typhus". He also told BATES that if he had it now, they could easily cure it. This was not the case at that time, they treated it with Aspirin for the high fever, and there were quite a few fatalities.

GLEN LEWIS, 65th, who, like many of us, was with the 19th until they came home, writes that he can't remember many of the guys he flew with, but recalls BILL CRAWFORD, CHET KENNEDY, SLYMAN, GILMORE, MERCER, HARRIS NELSON, DON THOMPSON, and CHARLES COLLIER. For someone with a bad memory, he does alright.

JEFFERY A. HARCLERODE (HARKY JR.), wrote a very nice letter to inform us that his father ALDEN "HARKY" HARCLERODE, passed away September 19th, 1988, three days before his 74th birthday. HARKY JR. writes "I can't help but think of the book

"DOWN UNDER", and the few words under Major KENNETH D. MC CULLAR'S picture "It's always that way when a good man goes west. We miss him most who knew him best!".

PAUL SEYMOUR, 403rd, writes that his daughter surprised him with an early Christmas gift, a round trip ticket to Melbourne, Australia. Needless to say, He enjoyed it a lot even though after 44 years, nothing is the same. PAUL attached a news clipping from a Melbourne newspaper with head "WWII ARMS CACHE FOUND IN RABAU". Seems troops began removing about seven tons of Japanese ammo discovered in hidden tunnels above the township of Rabaul. High-explosive artillery and anti-aircraft and cannon shells were found by children playing on a hillside above the market in the town. They discovered a hole leading into an extensive maze of man-made tunnels, similar to other complexes built by the invasion forces as protection against Allied air raids. According to the authorities, the explosives were still in good condition, and they were to be put on a ship and dumped in St. George's Channel, a 1500-fathom ocean trench east of Rabaul. Squatters living in a settlement above the caves are reported to have kept the find a secret. It is believed they raided the cache and sold explosives to local fishermen who were bombing fish on the surrounding reefs. Another clipping from Brisbane says that the proposed Cape York spaceport could make Townsville or Cairns the Houston of Australia when it became operational. If construction were started this year, in two to three years, they could be launching from Cape York. PAUL also sent the following info for those interested. The hard cover book "FOR THE LOVE OF A SOLDIER", about the Australian War Brides and their GI's, by Annette Potts and Lucinda Strauss, is Published by ABC Enterprises for the Australian Broadcasting Corp., 20 Atchinson St. Box 444, Crow's Nest 2065. Several of our men are listed, two from the 63rd being FRED and MARGARET BLAIR, and FRANK and OLA CALDERALA.

ROY BAKER, 64th, writes "Weather is nice in California, wish you had some back there". ROY, after freezing through this Artic cold front for 3 days, I wish we had some also. We are working on the "dues" situation.

Received another sad note from WINNIE LOU FRY. HOWARD FRY, Associate member, and WINNIE LOU had a wonderful time at a couple reunions a few years ago, but their participation is over. HOWARD, is in one of the later stages of Alzheimer's disease, and is currently in the V.A. hospital.

Another letter from GERRY CORMIER regrets to inform us that JOSEPH R.A. "JOE" CORMIER, 64th, died last May 18th after a brief illness. GERRY says they both enjoyed reading all the news from the 43rd Bomb Group as JOE was always proud to be one of the group's members.

EUGENE "DUTCH" BENEDETTI, 65th, writes a long note. DUTCH runs marathons, and has agreed to donate a portion of his prize money in his age bracket to the Group. He enclosed a check as part of his FIRST place in the Portland Marathon, and winner in the Long Beach Half Marathon. He apologizes for the small amount, but says the flu slowed his efforts. NOW GET THIS !! His age bracket is 70-74 years. DUTCH is now training for the Los Angeles Marathon March 5th. He doesn't expect to win since the flu really slowed him down, and it will take a month or so to regain his strength. DUTCH has at least 50 trophies. Some guy. Hope to see you in Colorado Springs. Since you are hoping to be there, maybe we can persuade J.T. BRITTON and JAY ZEAMER to show up.

Another sad letter from ANN PETRONIS. Her husband, JOE PETRONIS, 65th, passed away August 11, 1987 of a sudden heart attack. Both were very active in both the K of C and VFW in Temple, Texas. They had planned to make the Bossier City reunion in September of 1987. Our condolences to ANN and the family.

MARGARET STEVENSON writes to inform us of the passing of her husband A. C. "CLIFF" STEVENSON, Unkn Sqdn, April 26, 1985, Richmond, VA.

HAROLD RITZE, 65TH, passed away October 14th 1988 at the VA Hospital in Omaha. MRS. RUBY RITZE, wrote to inform us that they both enjoyed the newsletters, and that she would miss them. RUBY has already been marked COMP, and will continue to receive the newsletters.

Another nice letter from ORVILLE CLINTON who started out with the 13th Recon. at Fort Dix, and went over on the Argentina. Made a few missions in the 403rd with then, Lt. JAY ZEAMER, and says that Lt. SARNOSKI was bombsight instructor while they were in Melbourne. ORVILLE was later transferred to the 64th Squadron. He wanted to know if we had patches or caps available, and the answer is yes. In addition to the Group Patch, we have the 403rd Mareeba Butchers, the 63rd Flying Fortress, and the Sea Hawks patches, the 64th Indian Spy Glass patch, and the 65th Red Moose Express, and the Lucky Dice patches. All are presently available at \$10.00 each as long as the supply holds out. The caps from the Dayton Reunion,

Bossier Reunion, and San Antonio Reunion are available in very limited supply at \$5.00.

All of you who requested the applications for the A2 Jacket, please note, the extra price for the Goatskin has risen from \$20.00 to \$25.00. Everything else remains the same.

ROBERT G. KENNEDY, 64th, passed away September 16th, 1988 in Las Vegas we are advised by his widow MARY.

TROY MC CONNELL, 64th, notified me that BOB HALL, 64th, died shortly after Thanksgiving. MARGARET has expressed a desire to continue receiving the newsletters, and this has been taken care of.

MRS. W. T. WALLACE, writes that her husband WILLIAM T. WALLACE, 65th, died October 24th, 1988. She wants to receive the upcoming roster, and has been marked COMP thereafter.

A nice note from JAMES "JIM" R. ROBERTS, 64th, who joined the 64th in July 1947, and served in the 43rd wing from 1947 to 1966. We have started to get more and more members from this time frame. This is good, because sooner or later the younger guys are going to have to carry on for us old guys, and nothing brings it home stronger than the obits above.

ORVILLE "O.K." COULTER, 64th, writes that the reconditioned B-17 "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" was in Zanesville, Ohio for three days this past year, and everyone had a great time looking it over. O.K. is very active in the Confederate Air Force, and recently gave a talk to their Rotary Club about the CAF and Sentimental Journey. He enclosed a clipping from the local paper about the talk.

Received a long and very interesting letter from ARVID J. HOUGLUM, MD, 64th, who had seen our reunion notice in the American Legion magazine. He made contact with NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, and borrowed his newsletter and roster to locate some of his old crew. He sent his membership in and is now a life member. One of the most interesting parts of his letter reads; "I have never seen any mention made in any report about the very last combat mission of WWII. It took place 5 days after Nagasaki. General Mc Arthur wanted to test the sincerity of Emperor Hirohito. He asked the 5th Air Force to do the testing. I don't know how many Bomb Groups participated in this mission other than the 43rd. The mission was simple. Load the B-24's as usual. Fly over all known Ack Ack installations along the west coast of Kyushu, and the southern tip of Honshu, and try and draw their fire. We were not to fly at 10,000 plus feet. We were to fly between 3500 and 4000. If we encountered enemy action, we were to pick "Targets of Opportunity" and drop our bombs. Well the weather was fine, the Japanese could see us and hear us. At the apex of our mission course, we made a large slow turn over Hiroshima. The stark black, accented by white concrete remains vivid in my memory. Well there were no intercepting Zeros, and no Ack Ack. We headed south, dropped our bombs at sea and returned to Ie Shima. I suspect that that was the last date any B-24 carried a bomb load."

Received a nice letter from CHARLES NADO, 63rd, Bangor, Maine. CHARLIE sparked an idea when he mentioned he had about 100 signatures in his copy of "DOWN UNDER". Since most of us have the book, I'm sure quite a few would like to know who as many of the guys are, other than just their bunch. If enough are interested, each one of us could go through our book, noting the ones they know, and send them to me by page number, picture location on the page, and position in the picture. For instance; Pages are not numbered, so lets use the first group of men pictured immediately after the "LAE CONVOY" double page. This would be page one, and consists of three long photos stacked vertically. To name someone in the middle picture, you would list: Page 1, 2nd picture down, left to right, third man bottom row, John Smith. If any of you are interested, start sending in names to me in that order. Be sure and remember, Page 1 is the first group of men pictured after the "LAE CONVOY" page, and number the pages from one to the back of the book. Also remember, start your counting from left to right.

#### FROM LARRY HICKEY

The 43rd Bomb Group book research project has made major progress over the past year, with about 150 association members responding to letters and questionnaires being sent out by Larry Hickey.

After much delay due to his move from New Guinea back to Australia, Bruce Hoy has recently agreed to co-author the book. He will focus on the B-17 era, in which he already has significant expertise, and Larry Hickey will concentrate on the B-24 era.



Larry attended the Dayton reunion last fall and collected photo albums, conducted interviews, and made a presentation concerning the painting for each squadron which is to be commissioned for the book. Col. JIM PETTUS, our last wartime C/O, has agreed to sponsor the painting for one of the Squadrons of the Balikpapan raid on Oct. 14, 1944. Sponsors for the other three paintings, including the ZEAMER-SARNOSKI Medal of Honor mission, are still needed. Contact Larry Hickey if interested.

For the many of you who have information and materials for the history, but have not yet contacted the authors, please fill out and return a copy of the questionnaire, which is being run again for the benefit of those who missed it the first time.

The authors wish that anyone who has a copy of the 43rd B.G. or any of the squadron microfilm from the historical archives at Maxwell AFB, to please contact Larry Hickey at International Research & Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 3334, Boulder, CO 80307. Also, anyone who has a hard copy of the original Squadron monthly historical reports (any month), or has had a hard copy made of any of the Maxwell historical records on microfilm, please let us know as soon as possible. Also, did any squadron besides the 63rd keep a daily log or diary of activities during the early war days?.

Thanks to the many of you who have already contributed to this book. Many records and photos are still being copied but will be returned when completed. We still need to hear from those of you who have not yet participated.

One last note; The next page contains the questionnaire from LARRY HICKEY. If you have anything for him, tear it off and mail to him.

Another last note; JAMES E. BRAY, 63rd, a new member, is looking for the following men: GEORGE M. BIDDISON, RICHARD W. BURKE, HAYWARD K. SHANDOFF, H.J. REAGAN, and ROBERT C. TEMPLE. Anyone knowing their whereabouts, contact JAMES at 1056 Glenwood Blvd., Schenectady, NY 12308, phone 518-372-2180.

To each good health and God Bless.

BILL and MARY LOIS WILSON, 65th, Pres.  
Drawer M, Snyder, TX 79549  
Phone 915-573-6784

LLOYD and HELEN BOREN, 65th, Secty, Tr.  
102 Beechwood, Universal City, TX 78148  
Phone 512-658-5978

HARRY and RACHEL URBAN, 403rd, Reunion Chrm.  
1602 Cresta Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80906  
Phone 719-634-2917