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63rd Sqdn.



64th Sqdn.



403rd Sqdn.



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43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

34th EDITION - February 1990

FROM BILL WILSON

Had some rain, but the southwest is still very dry. West Texas gets about 24" of rain a year. Last 2 or 3 years got about 10". I guess we Methodists don't need much water.

Things are pretty well set for St. Louis in early October, another good project officer, BOB WATSON, 65th, has things rolling. LLOYD BOREN and HARRY URBAN are pretty good coaches. BOB and DORIS BUTLER, 63rd, are getting things set in Norfolk, Virginia for 91. They drove over a time or two checking things out. I am sending LLOYD BOREN over to meet with BOB and DORIS, and go to locking in places and dates. LLOYD is the best we have for making the best deals. I should have hired that boy a long time ago. DENNIS LOMBARDI, 403rd, is on top of our mini-reunion early in May at Bangor, Maine. We will place a memorial plaque at the International Airport in Bangor. Much more information on this one later in the newsletter.

ALBERT FAIR, 65th, called the other night. AL lost his wife while we were in Colorado Springs. He was with us at Dayton, but his wife didn't make it, she had a bad go of it the last year or two. AL was overseas in the fall of 42 and all of 43. Drop him a line or two. He would like to hear from you.

HERBERT and LULA CONVERSE, 64th, have our microfilm ordered. The library at Maxwell Field says it will take about eight weeks getting two copies of everything they have on the 43rd. Will send LARRY HICKEY one copy, and GEORGE WHITE the other. Hope to get it printed so we can all read it.

ROGER and AUDREY KETTLESON, 64th, had their 5 kids and spouses plus 10 grandkids for Christmas. Was a real blast. One of their kids moved to Hilo, Hawaii, guess which one they are going to see this spring. GEORGE WHITE, 63rd, is project officer on our book, and is looking for a name. LARRY HICKEY suggested "KEN'S MEN AGAINST THE EMPIRE". Col. WHITE says no, there is something better. For once, I think GEORGE is right. Any ideas? Send them to GEORGE. I like "LISTEN HERE TOJO", we had a plane by that name.

The 5th Air Force reunion is set for October 15th through 18th in Las Vegas, Nevada. They have finally gotten some pretty good prices - Riviera Hotel and Casino runs \$62.00 plus tax. Price is good October 12th through 21st. Their number is 1-800-634-6753. Special rates with Delta Air Lines reference file #D0602 - 1-800-241-6760 and All State Auto Rentals - 1-800-634-6186. Registration fee is 35.00 each, cut off date is 15th August. Mail fee to: Jules Teck, 1601 Cabana Drive, Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403-1033. Needing help on this reunion? ROGER KETTLESON, 109 Huntley Road, Las Vegas, NV 89128, phone 1-702-363-2824 will help you. ROGER has made most of the meetings.

The Memorial Fund is still alive and well thanks this time to DONALD and LUCILE WATKINS, 65th, HOWARD SHOMO, 64th, CHARLES and CLARA COLE, JOHN and ELEANOR TALLITSCH, E.G. HARRIS, JOEL and SHINE GRIFFIN all 403rd, DAYTON and ANN BLANCHARD, 65th, and ANDREW and DOROTHY BUROCHONOCK, 65th. Next plaque - Bangor, Maine, thanks to each of you.

Had several Christmas cards. I think they were for each of us so will pass them on, each had a special blessing and wish for the New Year. Cards came from JOEL and SHINE GRIFFIN, ROGER and AUDREY KETTLESON, DOUG and ILIENE LEAMAN, DON BAKER, MARCIA BRENNEMAN, RUSS and JANE BURNETT, DICK and NANCY WOOD, GARNETT and PAULINE PEELING. Had several others, must have misplaced them, Thanks for the good wishes.

GEORGE B. HOLSTEAD, 63rd, sent in a request for information on Lt. WILLIAM WILLIAMS, B-24 pilot, 63rd. GEORGE says he came from Ft. Worth, Texas, but over the years has had no luck finding him. He sent me a copy of "The Voice of the GI TS, Vol. 1 No. 5 dated 25th April 1945. Reports on tough mission by WILLIAMS, a recon along the Indo China coast. He and his crew took on the Jap navy - results - one Jap oil tanker sunk, co-pilot and radar man KIA - navigator and bombardier wounded, plane shot up, then a long six hour trip home. Also same paper reports Col. PETTUS, flying a Path Finder plane for the 64th, got jumped by 3 Zekes and a Tojo. Top turret gunner, T/Sgt GEORGE GANGLER, 64th, was seriously wounded. GEORGE continued to operate the top turret until the fighters broke off, then instructed others in his duties as engineer on the way home. Glad those two fellows are still around. JIM PETTUS, Honolulu, HI, GEORGE GANGLER, Roseville, California. Our thanks to GEORGE HOLSTEAD for sharing this with us.

JACK FAERBER, 65th, recalls a visit to St. Louis as a GI in August 1943. Hopes this time will be a little better. We will try hard, JACK.

BILL and MARY EATON, 403rd, say 1989 turned out to be a reunion year, Air Force, School, family, etc. Enjoyed them all, but maybe not so many in 1990. Don't forget St. Louis.

A special fellow to many of us, JOHN "RED" HANLON, 65th navigator, passed away on the 9th of December 1989. JOHN was in big trouble all of 89. Our love goes out to JULE and the rest of the family.

NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, continues to be a big help to the group. 5th Air Force Memorial, 5th Air Force reunion, you name it. Good show, NEIL.

DALE BARR, 403rd, reports his computer "blew up" about the 1st of December. He got two more computers, and now he has a backup and is only 26 letters behind. Hope he got caught up by Christmas. DALE got left at the Air Force game, buses went off without him. Had to hitchhike back. A major in a little bug picked him up. Straight to the hotel. Beat some of us back. DALE is working with the State of Nebraska on the museum at Omaha. May get a room for the 43rd. Good reports, DALE.

DICK and JANE HENNIG, 64th, returned home after the Colorado Springs reunion by way of Emporia, Kansas. Got to visit LES and HELEN COFFMAN, 64th, but missed JOHN and GEN ROCHE, they had a little car trouble. They report the reunion was a big success. Thanks to you two for your help.

CHARLIE and GENEVA BELLOWS, 65th, report big time at the reunion. GENEVA'S black eye went away, and CHARLIE has been raking leaves.. Sounds like something I could do. If CHARLIE gets tired, let me know.

JIM and MARY MURPHY, 63rd, received several calls about the storm that hit Huntsville, Alabama. They lost the roof off their house and other damage, but made it through OK. They send a big thanks for our concern.

DICK HENNIG sent an article in out of "AIR POWER" about how the campaign for New Guinea was won - good report. Will send it on to LARRY HICKEY. Also DICK dreamed he won the Ohio lottery and picked up a new Lincoln from me. Hey, DICK, send me a nice deposit and I'll hold it for you.

ANDY and DOROTHY BUROCHONOCK, 65th, report great time at the reunion. Many thanks to all concerned, but a special thanks to HARRY and RACHEL URBAN.

CHARLES and CLARA COLE, 403rd, attended the 13th - 403rd reunion in Aurora, Nebraska for the first time. Was a great meeting. They will try to get MIKE POLECHKO, LEWIS WALTMAN & CARL AVERALL, 13th Recon folks and good yankees to report in for the Bangor Maine memorial service.

HAL and MAUDE WINFREY, 65th, had a big time at the reunion. This was followed by Grandkids for Christmas. Early in January they had a call from LEROY SPILLYARDS, 65th. The last time they were together was New Guinea, fall of 1943. LEROY is in good health, and lives in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Not all that far

from Stone Mountain, Georgia. They plan to meet in St Louis this fall. Good things just keep happening.

The Air Men Memorial Museum, P.O. Box 711, Suiteland, MD 20746-9965, wants information about you. What it was like being in the service, your training, duty assignments, daily routine, etc. They have a form if you want to write for one. George Hicks is the director.

MARCIA BRENNEMAN, Associate member and niece of WALTER BRENNEMAN, 65th pilot who was KIA in 43, has her book "WALTER, AN AIRMAN'S LIFE" in print now. The book is good, a different look at our lives in the late 30's and early 40's. If you like, send MARCIA \$24.45 at 65566 Washington Road, Apt. 2A, Goshen, IN 46526, or call 219-533-2755. She will get the book on its way to you. We, in the 65th remember WALTER as BILL SMITH'S co-pilot. I flew a couple of missions with him when he got his first crew.

JIM and ANNE SHROPSHIRE, 65th, couldn't make Colorado Springs, but are all set for St. Louis. Maybe Bangor also. JIM wants to set me straight. He did not find Col. DAN CROMER, LAYTON BACON did. He only gave me DAN'S address. After 48 years, JIM is still trying to keep me on track, tough job. JIM and BOB WATSON, our main man in St. Louis, had a 30 minute phone meeting. BOB reported seeing JAMES J. "BROOKLYN JIM" HAYES. HAYES stayed in service till retirement.

I had a call from the son of JOSEPH LEONARD ROFF on the 4th of December. JOE is having memory problems. He thinks he was a bombardier on a B-17 crew in either the 19th or 43rd, maybe both. The family would like very much to know. If you remember JOE, let me know and I'll pass it on to the family.

I have not had any replies to the Australian ladie's request. BOB and DUKE may want this one forgotten. I thought it might be GEORGE WHITE, but I guess he was off putting B-17's in the drink. Maybe BREEZY BOREN and INDIAN COCHRAN. Also could have been BALDWIN and SHAKO.

JOEL GRIFFIN, 403rd, got a letter from DOUG LEAMAN, tail gunner on Col. Rousek's crew when DUTCH BENEDETTI was shot up. DOUG'S crew picked up "TAX PAYERS PRIDE" in Sacramento, painted the name on it, and flew it to Townsville joining the 28th Sqdn., 19th BG, and promptly got ranked out of the plane. This was the plane JOEL bailed out of. Mc Eachern and the rest of the crew went in. JOEL got a nice letter from C.E. "KELLY" O'CONNOR, a P-38 pilot turned bomber pilot. He was a tent mate of McEachern, and maybe MORT SMITH. He wanted to know about their last mission.

W.R. "BILL" SPENCER, 403rd, and ED HAAG, 403rd, got together in Atlanta, GA after 45 years. BILL and ED want to locate the following crew members: Radio operator, ROY NILSSON, co-pilot DEWITT JOHNSON, from Memphis, TN, and formerly worked for Cessna in Wichita, KS, MARTIN BELMORE from Sandusky, OH, their tail gunner, CLYDE VICKERY, navigator from Atlanta, GA, ADAM WISEGRUBER(?), waist gunner from California, EDGAR F. DOW, flight engineer from Lumberton, NC, and STEVE NESSVICH, waist gunner from Pennsylvania. Try this one for your home work. Let BILL and ED know if you can help. They want to meet us all in St. Louis.

Judge and Mrs. FRANK PIMPINELLA, 64th, have retired and moved from Connecticut to California. FRANK is recovering from surgery nicely. Sent in 1990 dues and says hi. Some of you fellows in the San Diego area give him a call.

LELAND and CHARLOTTE LOUGHREY, 403rd, have moved, new address is 1085 Kennett Way, West Chester, PA 19380. New phone 215-430-3665. LELAND says he is ready to help MATT HOLOHAN hunt for 43rd people. He is all yours, MATT.

FIDEL G. MONTALVO, 64th, crew chief on "SOOPER DROOPER" and "BLACK MAGIC", both B-24's stationed at Owi, sends best regards to all from his home base in Corpus Christi. That's Texas GEORGE, Texas!!

WALLACE W. MUNSON, 64th, is a new member, wants to find his B-24 crew. M.L. SHADDOX was pilot. This was from July 43 to July 44. He has located co-pilot S.R. DRUMM and engineer T.C. LEARY. These three are looking for engineer T.J. LAMORGE of Ephram, NJ, pilot M.L. SHADDOX, Fort Stockton, TX, navigator, JOHN G. SMITH, of Jannatt, West Virginia, bombardier JOHN F. SHERWIN, E. Boston, MA, gunner JOSEPH C. DIMAURO, Philadelphia, PA, radio operator EDWARD H. FORD, Audubon, NJ, and HAROLD F. RICHMOND, Syracuse, NY. If you can help these fellows, let WALLACE MUNSON know. Address, P.O. Box 1477 Sierra Vista, AZ 85636, Phone 602-977-7981. ** LATE NOTE FROM LLOYD -- SEE INFO UNDER MY BY-LINE **

RUSS and JANE BURNETT, 64th, from Conway, Maine, had a big time at Colorado

Springs. They also enjoy the newsletters. We will look for you two at Bangor about the first part of May.

ANGUS and HAZEL TAFF, 64th, say we have their phone number in error. The correct number is 904-893-3351. ANGUS has a number of B-24 paintings not listed. If LARRY HICKEY needs these, let him know. They also made a run to Phoenix, AZ, to see Florida State play in the Fiesta Bowl. Have motor home, will travel. Good program.

RUSSELL and CLYTIE SEDERBERG, Hdqrs., couldn't make Colorado Springs. They were shut down for repairs, says they're sorta like my used cars, take a little fixin' once in a while. They're back thinking about St. Louis. Bet they make it. See you there.

JOHN "JACK" FAERBER, 65th, hears from Father SHEA fairly often. Says the coach is hanging tough. Also has heard from JOE HERBER, WARREN KAESS, TOM WHEDON, and several others. He is wondering how TOM CURTIN and LLOYD KENNY are. Reports cold weather in New England. See you in Bangor.

CLIFTON WHITE, 403rd, recalls the circling B-24, and wants to know more about it. CLIFTON, we have had much news of that B-24 in past newsletters, come over to Memorial Service at Bangor and I'll get GEORGE WHITE to fill you in. GEORGE probably knows more than anyone in the world about ditched planes.

AUSTIN and PATRICIA MATTESON, 65th, missed Colorado Springs. They were on a trip to Spain, Portugal, and Morocco at that time. St. Louis is marked on the calendar. See you there. Along this line; Practically everyone we have heard from has heard through the grapevine that Colorado Springs was a blast, and they don't intend to miss St. Louis. Of course, the ones who made Colorado Springs are definitely going to be in St. Louis, it's shaping up as our largest yet.

NUNCIO BONINO, 63rd, says to send his regards to his friends in the 63rd. Have not been to a reunion yet. They are saving up for St. Louis. I'll bet they make it. Sure hope so.

HOWARD and WILMA ROGERS, 64th, missed Colorado Springs, but had a big time at Dayton. Can't wait for St. Louis.

A.M. and NELL DAVIS, 65th, enjoy the newsletters. Health giving a little trouble. Best not try the reunions. They enjoy phone visits from HERBERT BRUNE, 65th, LARRY DE HAVEN, 64th, BOB LEAF, 65th, and CLAUDE SACHSE, 64th, and others. Good to hear from you A.M.

ED TROCCIA, 65th, called BREEZY BOREN, 65th, to report he had to shut down for repairs, but is out of the hospital and back in good shape. Colorado Springs was the only one I can remember that ED missed. Good report- ED.

ZIG and RUTH JANOWSKI, 64rd, are working on JIM and SHIRLEY CONWAY, 63rd and TED and JEAN KAUFMAN, 63rd for a get together in St. Louis. It will be fun. Don't miss it. ZIG and RUTH, you want to be in Bangor in early May. Hope so.

BILL SPENCER, 403rd, and ED HAAG, 403rd, had their own mini-reunion on November 18th and 19th. First time together in over 40 years. Now they want to try and locate the rest of the crew. MATT HOLOHAN, 7737 91st St. North, Seminole, FL 34647, is your man.

G.F. "GEORGE" HOUSTON, 64th, takes a bite out of my backside. I'm always talking about dues and life memberships, but not how much. Well, GEORGE, guess I've been selling used cars too long. Get em in the closing room first. Dues are \$10.00 per year payable January 1st each year. Life membership is \$100.00. Life money is placed in a CD with the interest paid to the general fund each year. Either way you get free bites. Some think they are delicious.

CHARLIE and VALERIA MARVEL, 403rd, say Colorado Springs was more like a family reunion for them. VALERIA is from Pueblo. Son BILL graduated from the Academy in 1969. But HARRY and RACHEL'S great job, plus seeing so many friends made it super special. Thanks, glad you made it. By the way, Charlie usually flies his own plane to the reunions.

DON BAKER, 65th, joins the Life member group, and also reports a large dog ran over him and his shoulder is still hurting. Get back going DON, we will need you in St. Louis.

TED BIBY, 403rd, reports the passing of HUGH D. BROWN, 403rd, the 22nd of

November 1989 in Mission, KS. HUGH was one of the 151 from Sheppard Field that joined the 13th Recon and went to Australia on the Argentina. PHYLLIS CHRISTIANSEN, Assoc., told TED. We will all miss HUGH.

JOHN GOOSHERST, thinks JULES POWELL, 63rd, was his original navigator on their flight from the States. Wants Life membership. Enjoys the newsletter. Don't tell GEORGE WHITE about the newsletter, he is still "bitching".

BRYAN A. FLATT, 403rd, reports 1989 was a year of new knees for him. Going to show them off in St. Louis. BRYAN needs some help, JOHN BURTIS, a 403rd bombardier, from Madisonville, Texas flew with BRYAN in the summer and fall of 43. Thought he headed home in February of 44, but last year when he went to Madisonville to find him, his kinfolks said he did not make it. Any one remember?

DON WILBER, wants to thank BOB ROTH, 403rd, for helping him find the 43rd in 1989. New roster will be on its way to you in late April, DON, so maybe 90 will be the year you see a bunch of your old friends.

CHARLIE NUNEZ, 63rd, is looking forward to seeing DOC GUSACK, AL PEPE, WILL HUMPHRESS and GENE MURARI in St. Louis this fall. In the meantime, he has to help his son process one hundred and twenty four tons of grapes. CHARLIE, you sure have your work cut out for you. Hurry, we need you in St. Louis.

PATRICK FREEMAN, 65th says he and ELIZABETH are all set for St. Louis. Sent LARRY HICKEY info on "LUCKY LUCILLE". Hopes MATT keeps finding more of our people.

JOHN J. ROCHE, 64th, wants you to know he and KEN STEVENS put in their time in the 64th Operations. I'll bet LLOYD gets that so noted in the new roster. JOHN and GENEVIEVE are looking forward to Bangor in May. They are good "Yankees". Not like some I know from Chatham...wherever that is.

A. H. "ART" MILLARD, 63rd, sent information on his crew. They were crew #3: Scott Project...B-24D #42-40896, "ART'S CART". Will send it on to LARRY HICKEY. Thanks for the information.

STANLEY DUCHARME, 63rd, enjoys the newsletter. Thinks it great to hear of old friends. He says Vermont is a little short on news about the 43rd. Well STANLEY, if you cross over to Maine in early May, you might pick up lots of information. See you there.

THEODORE ROMANOWSKI, 403rd, recalls his bombardier, THOMAS A. WIRROW was in on part of the design of "Mareeba Butchers" patch. Late 43, or early 44. TED got a couple of zeros to his credit. one at Wewak and one at Rabaul. Good shooting, TED.

ROY F. VODA, 63rd, is fighting the big C. Enjoys the newsletter, but best of all is a letter or call from an old friend. Says fellows "Don't forget to write".

WELDON YOST, 65th, made his first reunion at Colorado Springs. Had a great time and is looking forward to St. Louis, Just one little problem, I left his name off those that attended. There goes my good conduct badge. Sorry about that WELDON.

RUDOLPH CHERKAUER, 65th, sent in an interesting report on an event put on by the Greater Buffalo International Airport. It is called "Celebration of the Flight". It took place in mid-August. This year it honored the B-17 and B-24 Pilots with combat experience. RUDOLPH was the only 43rd pilot and one of seven from the 5th Air Force. The 8th, 15th, 7th, and 13th had a bunch. Glad we were represented.

BOB ROTH, 403rd, reports our friend, LORAIN DITZ, BILL'S widow has a new address, its Route 1 Box 577E, Leasburg, MO 65535. Also her phone number is 314-885-3083. Drop LORAIN a note or better still call her. She would love to hear from 43rd folks.

BILL and BETTY WALKER, 65th, sent in a letter 23rd September 1989. I missed it for last news letter, but want to report now. Their last trip to Colorado Springs was in May of '48. Could not believe the population was now 300,000. Bill has trouble with his eyes, can't read, write, or drive. He has a complete diary on the 65th from 1st January '43 to November '43. He wanted to give it to LARRY HICKEY. Hope he got it. This was their first reunion. Hope they enjoyed it as much as the rest of us. BILL may have a little eye trouble, but he sure doesn't have wife trouble. BETTY is a super Lady.

Talk about a big Christmas, HARVEY and CAROLINE BANCROFT, 63rd, had a big Christmas. How about two great-grandsons. Hey, DALE BARR, you and MARY are getting behind. Newsletter is good and reunion better. Their thanks to HARRY and RACHEL URBAN.

KENT and MARTY ZIMMERMAN, 63rd, are living in the Air Force Village in San Antonio. MARY LOIS and I think it is a great place. hope you two enjoy it. They attend the Airstream Trailer meet in Boseman, Montana, and while there, them visited his flight engineer, RICHARD HOWARD, at Hysham, Montana. RICHARD and MILDRED took two weeks to show them the ranch and Hysham. RICH, if there is any open time next summer, BREEZY and I want to get on the list. KENT and MARTY spent Christmas in Vermont with their Kids. Real nice.

ANNE LEE WARNER, and Associate member from Doublebay, N.S.W. Australia, and a good friend of both JOE NIECE and ED FEILE, both 65th, made more friends when she attended the Colorado Springs reunion. ANNE helped out at the registration desk. She is all ready for St. Louis, says the reunion is just too good to miss. She had dinner with BOB FULLER, 65th, in San Francisco on her way home. We all enjoyed visiting with you ANNE.

SHELBY and MARION GRIFFIN, 403rd, had to miss Colorado Springs but not St. Louis. SHELBY needs some help, his old buddy Sgt. GEORGE C. OWELL was in the 13th Recon and 403rd, and also on General Kenney's crew. SHELBY'S last contact with GEORGE was Roswell, NM in 1950. Any help out there?

HELEN DENNISON widow of CHARLES, 65th, reports his passing on the 11th of April, 1989. CHARLES got a big bang out of the newsletters. We will all miss CHARLES. Why not send HELEN a note. I'm sure she would like that.

ROBERT "BOBBY" CLAIRWOOD, 403rd, says he remembered to send LLOYD his \$10.00, but just can't seem to remember what it was for. Hang in there BOBBY, that's better than I am doing.

JOE and CHRIS BROWN, 65th, made their first reunion in Colorado Springs. Were surprised it was so well run. Best time ever. JOE, it takes a few people about a year to put it together. We are working on the next three right now. Bangor, Maine Memorial Program, early May. St. Louis in early October, and Norfolk, VA in October 91, and after that will come the QUEEN MARY in Longbeach, CA in 92.

BOB WATSON, 65th, our Main Man in St. Louis, took time out from the reunion work to look up for me, the placing of Sqdn. patches on the leather jackets (A-2's). Group patch on right side, squadron patch on left side. Thanks for the help, both on the patches and on the reunion.

Last call for the B-24 book. Send personal biography in 150 words or less, such as name, rank, unit, place of birth, outstanding missions, awards, etc., remained in service, or other work. It goes to: B-24 History Book, P.O. Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42003-3101. Final date is 28th Feb. 1090. If you want a copy of the book, ask for order from. The price is \$45.00.

ROBERT HILL, 63rd, called his co-pilot, on DICKINSONS crew, and was advised that DOUGLAS WACHS had passed away. We all send our warmest regards to LOIS and the rest of the WACHS family.

JOSEPH "JOE" HOWARD, 64th, sends in another complaint on LARRY HICKEY being very slow (this time not at all) to acknowledge receipt of material sent to him. Again, I say, LARRY, get on the ball. If you are too busy, get someone in your office to send the fellows a simple note "Thanks, we got it". JOE enjoys the newsletters, and would like to recall some of the people he flew with: FRED WESCHE, pilot, ARTHUR MCMULLEN, co-pilot, KIA 15 March 43, LES NEWMAN, co-pilot, KIA 20 May 43, C.C. "SMILEY" KINCAID, navigator, GUY W. CLAREY, engineer, EARL ROSEY ROSEGARTEN, radio, J.R. "MAZZ" MAZZAFERRO, waist gun, DON RAHER, ball gun, and P.E. CAPEN, tail gun. Any word on these, let JOE know. Also, if you signed his "short snorter" on the 10th of November 1942, sound off.

EDWARD and WINONA TORDOFF, 64th, are spending the winter in Arizona. WINONA says ED seems to be doing better there. Will have to be back in Eldora, IA by March. Another check up by the VA. Take time to write ED and WINONA. Be a nice thing to do.

A group of Vietnam Nurse Veterans wrote a long letter trying to get recognition for Colonel Maggie, as she was known during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts where she spent most of her time over a 7 year period working as both a nurse and nurse's aide, in addition to doing her best to cheer up the troops, even at

the front. Some of us remember her from WW II when we were entertained by her. She was made an honorary Colonel and received a citation from General Westmoreland. We know her better as a 73 year old named MARTHA RAYE. The Veterans are after your personal recollections of MARTHA. If you have anything to report on this fine lady, please write to NOONIE FORTON (?) or BELLE PELLEGRINO, 1 Midway Drive, Albany, New York 12205

JAMES A. JURNEY, 16024 NE 26th St., Bellevue, WA 98008, reports the passing of LOUIS D. LINDSEY, Brewer, Maine on the 17th of January 1989. LOUIS was a gunner in the 63rd, and was stationed at Nadzab. He is survived by his wife DOT, and four daughters.

BOB GORDON, 63rd, sent in membership dues and a copy of "TS" dated 5th February, 1945. A story on the 63rd mission by Lt. A. J. GOOSONS sounds pretty hairy. I'll send it on to LARRY HICKEY. He may need it for our new book. Glad to have you aboard BOB.

JOHN COOP, 403rd, sends greetings and best wishes from Kellyville, N.S.W. Australia. Missed newsletter #32. Received the 33rd edition in time for Christmas. Has made contact with WES COWAN and got a Christmas card and pictures of the Mareeba Memorial from CHUNKY and CLARA MARIE WILFERT. JOHN hopes to get to Mareeba to see the Memorial before long. Do that, it is well worth the trip.

M.V. "DUTCH" EHLERS, 65th, has had his knees replaced, again, so he can continue to be the hot one on the Senior Golf Tour. Best I can tell, it's sorta like new shocks on an old Ford. VONNIE (MRS. DUTCH), keeps BREEZY advised about the Dutchman. He has a little problem with his throat, and can't talk much now. DUTCH was HARRY HAWTHORNE'S co-pilot, and when he checked out (93rd Sqdn., 19th Group), I became his co-pilot, "DOC" BRYANT, his navigator, "BREEZY", his bombardier, LOWELL LEE, engineer, ARNOLD OSBORN, radio, BILL BOLY, radio, WALTER BUCHANAN, gunner, PAUL HARMON, gunner, and MICKEY ANDRADE, ball/gun. I checked out as 1st Pilot, December 42, and JOE "INDIAN" COCHRAN went with the crew as co-pilot. On the 8th of March, 1943, on a recon over Gasmata in "THE OLD MAN", they got the hell shot out of them by 13 Zeros. DUTCH has always sorta been our leader. Get well, DUTCHMAN, we need you. THIS IS "WILLIE" TALKING.

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER RELEASE
FOR THE 43rd BOMB GROUP'S 10th ANNUAL REUNION
AT ST. LOUIS, THE GATEWAY CITY
BY: BOB and IRENE WATSON

The theme song of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair says it all - "Meet me in St. Louis", Oct. 8-14, 1990. This is the place where you will have a great time meeting with all your World War II, 43rd Bomb Group friends. This will be one of your most memorable reunion experiences. IRENE and I feel honored to be your hosts for this 10th Reunion, and we have a program we think will be to your liking. We have pulled out all the stops to put together the best reunion possible with the exciting things available in the St. Louis area. The Marriott Pavilion Hotel is one of the best and most accommodating hotels in the city; they have hosted numerous WW II reunions because to them, money is secondary to the reunions' group having an enjoyable time. To help you in planning and making your final arrangements to attend this big event, we have a lot of reunion information for you following this introductory note: Information about the history of St. Louis, hotel reservations, reunion registration, RV parks, reunion program, walking tours available around the hotel, and optional tours that are also available. Please read all the information presented in this newsletter before making your final plans because we feel sure it will answer most of your questions concerning our St. Louis reunion. Then, make your plans to "Meet us in St. Louis" this year, October 8-14, at the downtown Marriott Pavilion Hotel.

BRIEF HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS: St. Louis, the Gateway City, had a strong French and Spanish influence in its early years of development. In 1764, a French fur trapper, Pierre Laclede, established a fur trading post on the western bank of the Mississippi River near its confluence with the Missouri River. From this raw fur-trading riverfront village, St. Louis developed into a metropolis of national importance, governed alternately by France and Spain, then the U.S. following the Louisiana Purchase in 1804. By 1850, traders and settlers had made St. Louis the "gateway" to the west, and a bustling city of 77,000 - the first market in the area for furs and skins (note the Fur Exchange Building one block to the east of our hotel), Minnesota lumber, Missouri and Illinois grain and livestock, and Iowa, Missouri and Illinois minerals. From its highest point on the Mississippi River below which there are no rapids, St. Louis had become a

transportation breakpoint. By 1857, steamboat arrivals at St. Louis outnumbered arrivals at New Orleans and Cincinnati by twenty-five percent, and the city led the nation in steamboat ownership and the manufacture of steamboat engines. As the Ohio and Mississippi railroad slowly crept toward St. Louis in the 1850's, a flood of German and Irish immigrants caused the city's population to swell to more than 161,000 by 1860. The completion of the Eads Bridge in 1874 (the first arched steel bridge in the world and the first across the river, and still in use today) made St. Louis the hub of the Southwestern railroad system, second only to Chicago in traffic volume.

In the next twenty-five years, the city more than doubled its population to 575,000 by 1900, to become the nation's fourth city overall in production while retaining its role as an agricultural market and distribution center. The city hosted the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, (World's Fair) in 1904, an artistic and financial success - its theme song was the famous song "Meet me in St. Louis". A number of firsts were also created at this fair; the first hot dog, ice cream cone, iced tea, and the first Olympiad held in the United States was held at St. Louis in 1904.

Following the Louisiana Purchase, during President Thomas Jefferson's administration, St. Louis became the "gateway" for westward expansion; many people and almost everything going west passed through this city. Most of the historic wagon trains going west along the famous early trails, formed-up here. From 1904, St. Louis experienced a continued steady growth in population and industry. During this period, in 1911, the St. Louis Cardinals' baseball team came into being and won its first National League pennant from the Yankees in 1926. A year later, with financial support from St. Louis businessmen, Col. Charles Lindbergh completed the first solo transatlantic flight to Paris in his "Spirit of St. Louis", a single engine airplane with a periscope instead of a windshield for forward vision. (The airplane is displayed in the St. Louis Airport Terminal). The construction of the Gateway Arch (on the site of the original St. Louis Village) by the National Park Service in the 1960's, inspired the city to begin a massive downtown and riverfront re-development program, now completed, which included Expressways, parks, Busch Stadium (across the street from our hotel), Laclede's landing, Civic Center, many hotels (Marriott, Adam's Mark, Sheraton, Clarion), and many modern high-rise buildings downtown. **INTERESTING NOTE:** the Pavilion portion of the Marriott Hotel was the Spanish Pavilion Exhibit at the 1964 New York World's Fair. After the fair, it was purchased and moved to its present site. All of our meeting rooms are in the Pavilion portion of the hotel).

Today, St. Louis is a modern, beautiful city of national importance: it is the geographic and population hub of the United States; has a metropolitan area population of 2.4 million. It is the country's second largest inland port; the 6th busiest airport and the third largest rail center in the nation. It has four distinct seasons (during October, our reunion month, the daily temperatures are mild, normally in the 70's). St. Louis' central location also makes it an easy city to get to. SO, you'all come and "Meet me in St. Louis" for the 43rd's 10th Annual Reunion.

TOURNAMENTS: Something new has been added to the tournament program this year. In addition to Golf, we will have Tennis and Party Bridge tournaments. The Golf tournament starting at 11:00 AM at Scott AFB will be chaired by GLEN LEWIS, 65th: The tennis tournament, starting at 10:00 a.m. at Scott AFB (we have four courts reserved), will be chaired by JACK CAPERTON, 65th, and the Party Bridge tournament, starting at 10:00 AM at the hotel, will be chaired by J. T. BRITTON, 65th. All tournaments will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 10th, and the golf and tennis participants must provide their own transportation to Scott AFB, about 20 miles east of the hotel, on I-64 at exit 19.

SOMETHING ELSE NEW: At this reunion we will have a very large and impressive display of the History of Air Power, consisting of over 450 model airplanes of all types, all U.S. Military Planes, dating from 1920 to the present. All of these models have been built to scale from scratch, with historically correct markings, by MIKE GUYERMAN, 64th, of Belleville, Illinois. In fact, one of them is a model of a WW II, 43rd Bomb Group B-24 that had one of the most highly decorative "nose art" paintings of that era. The B-24 was named "The Dragon and His Tail" and it had a big dragon painted on its right side, all the way from the nose to the tail, and it was holding a scantily-clad female in its front feet. This display is also unique because it covers all experimental models and all successive models of each type airplane. MIKE has exhibited his History of Air Power hobby all over the United States. This display will be open daily in our VERY large Memorabilia Room, and MIKE will be there to explain and answer questions. MIKE GUYERMAN, will also be the over-all chairman of the Memorabilia

Room.

DINNER CRUISE: Unfortunately, the dinner cruise mentioned in the previous newsletter has been cancelled by the owners of the "President" Riverboat. It seems they will start renovation of it in September for riverboat gambling in Iowa and Illinois. There are no other boats large enough in this area to accommodate our size group at one time, so, we are going to have the same evening program at the hotel, without a boat. You are going to have a fantastic time at the October-fest evening program we now have scheduled for Friday evening. But not to worry, we have TWO riverboats for a Fall Foliage Cruise in the morning.

ST. LOUIS REUNION PROGRAM

MEMORABILIA ROOM: Daily: Coffee and tea, memorabilia and History of Air Power display.

MON. - TUES., OCT. 8-13: Registration and memorabilia room. Board of Directors meeting.

WED., OCT. 10: Registration, golf, tennis and party bridge tournaments. In the evening: cash bar, live cocktail music, dinner on your own. Squadron Meetings and Ladies program.

THURS., OCT. 11: Registration, walking and optional tours. Full breakfast. In the evening; cash bar, ragtime cocktail music: Flag Ceremony by the MAC Honor Guard, and the Continental Army Guard. Pay as you go group dinner; talk by 4 Star General H. T. Johnson, Commander in Chief, Military Airlift Command and United States Transportation Command; MAC Command slide presentation show; Drawing for A-2 Jacket; and awards presentation.

FRI., OCT. 12: Registration; Fall Foliage Riverboat Cruise; Walking and optional tours. In the evening; cash bar and FREE BEER; German Buffet dinner with music; German Band and show after dinner, and dancing to a German Band.

SAT., OCT. 13: Registration; continental breakfast; Group meeting; walking and optional tours. In the evening; cash bar and live cocktail music; Banquet style dinner with music for dining and dancing by the Skyliners orchestra.

SUN., OCT. 14: Memorial service; Full Sunday Brunch. Then Bon Voyage!

As you can see from the program, this is a very exciting and comprehensive reunion program; yet, it leaves you lots of free time each day to do your own thing. This program necessitates a reunion fee of \$81.00 dollars per person. Many of our costs here in St. Louis are a little higher than at Colorado Springs. We have worked very hard to get everything down to the lowest price possible and still have a quality program. We feel we have been successful in doing so.

PRE-REGISTER AND WIN A BIG PRIZE: Everyone who pre-registers and pays the reunion fee before September 20, 1990 will be eligible to win a new A-2 Leather Flying Jacket with appropriate Group and Squadron patches. The name of each member who pre-registers will be put in a sealed box, then the winning name will be drawn on Thursday night following the evening program. Be a winner: Register and pay your reunion fee early.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS: To make your hotel reservation for the Marriott Pavilion Hotel in downtown St. Louis, call the Marriott Nationwide reservation number 1-800-228-9290 and be sure you identify yourself as a member of the "43rd Bomb Group Reunion", or you may call the hotel direct by dialing 1-314-421-1776. We will be including a hotel reservation card in the May issue. If you plan to arrive at the hotel after 6 p.m., you must guarantee your reservation with either a deposit for the first night or with a major credit card. The hotel will not hold any reservations after 6:00 p.m. unless guaranteed by one of the above methods.

During our stay, the hotel will give us a 25% discount for lunch and dinner at either hotel restaurant. This discount does not apply, however, to Early Bird Specials and Buffets. To get this discount, you must wear your reunion ID Badge. The special rate of \$60.00 per night with free parking will be effective from Sunday, Oct. 7 through Sunday October 14. The cut off date for making a reservation is September 16, 1990. **NOTE:** If your vehicle is over six feet in

height, you will have to park in an open air parking lot, at your own expense, on the south side of Busch Stadium, about two blocks from the hotel. The hotel has a height limit of six feet for vehicle parking.

RV PARKS/CAMPGROUNDS: (Recommended in order listed)

[1] **ST. LOUIS RV PARK,** in downtown St. Louis at intersection of Jefferson Street and Martin Luther King Blvd. An excellent full-service, fully paved park. Free public transportation just outside the park. Address: P.O. Box 7663, St. Louis, MO 63106: Rate \$23.00 to \$25.00 a day. Phone 314-241-3330. Be sure to make your reservation early as this is a very popular park.

[2] **TRAILS END CAMPGROUND:** (Good Sam park) - 11 miles from hotel near I-270 and IL Rt 3, in Granite City, IL. Freeway all the way to the hotel. For reservations, call 618-931-5041 or 618-797-1591. Full hook-up-rate \$14.00 a day. One day fee required to hold reservation.

[3] **KOA CAMPGROUND:** Same location as Trails End Campground, just one block east of it. KOA phone 618-797-6391. Rate about \$14.00 a day.

REUNION REGISTRATION: We encourage all of you who plan to attend to pre-register by September 20, 1990. Please do not mail in after this date. Fill out the attached Reunion Registration/Survey form when you register by mail, it will help us tremendously in planning for and serving your needs much more effectively. Upon receipt of your registration form and reunion fee (make checks payable to 43RD BOMB GROUP REUNION), we will send you a receipt plus any other information you may need at that time. If you would like some specific brochures, maps and etc. before your arrival in St. Louis, contact the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission, 10 South Broadway, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63102, Phone 1-800-325-7962/ 1-314-421-1023, FAX 314-421-0039. Do yourself a big favor, Pre-Register and become eligible to win a beautiful A-2 Flying Jacket; Then, "Meet Me in St. Louis" for a fantastic reunion.

THINGS TO DO IN ADDITION TO REUNION PROGRAM

WALKING TOURS: There are many places within one to three blocks of our hotel that will be of great interest to any visitor to St. Louis. Those that are within easy walking distance (one to three blocks) and most likely to be of interest to you, are:

OLD COURT HOUSE (1839): Nationally significant, where the Dred Scott case for freedom of the slaves was first tried, is one of the oldest buildings in St. Louis still standing. It contains five museum galleries on St. Louis history, and two restored courtrooms. It is now a part of the Gateway National Park. Open daily and is one-half block from our hotel. No admission, make a donation if you like.

OLD CATHEDRAL (1834): A National Monument, the Cathedral of St. Louis IX of France is of Greek revival architectural style. It was St. Louis' earliest church. Beautiful interior, and the museum also contains the tomb of the first Bishop of St. Louis. Two blocks from Hotel. Free parking for Daily Masses. Admission to museum 25 cents.

ST. LOUIS CENTER (DOWNTOWN): A 100 store shopping mall. One of the largest enclosed centers in the U.S., on four levels (escalators to each level), in the heart of downtown and only three long blocks from the hotel. The Center also contains a "Taste of St. Louis" food court featuring 20 restaurants. This is a must for you shoppers. St. Louis Center is shopping, restaurants and entertainment beneath a vaulted glass roof. Open daily 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Restaurants remain open for evening dining.

GATEWAY ARCH & MUSEUM OF WESTWARD EXPANSION: The 630 foot Gateway Arch is the Nation's tallest and most elegant memorial. It commemorates the role St. Louis played in our nation's historic surge westward. Under the Gateway Arch, the museum exhibits depict the hardships experienced by the people who passed through St. Louis on their westward trek by wagon-train. Also, it has continuous movies on related subjects. You can ride to the top of the Arch for a new and exciting experience. Open daily 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Only about 3 blocks from the Hotel. Golden Age Passports accepted for admission: otherwise it is \$1.00. Plan to go early in the day as tickets are usually sold out before the end of the day.

ST. LOUIS SPORTS HALL OF FAME (IN BUSCH STADIUM): A museum of St. Louis sports history including World Series movies, trophies and displays on baseball, football, basketball, golf, soccer, olympics and hockey. Continuous showing of St. Louis sports highlight film. Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission

\$2.00. One block from the hotel.

NATIONAL BOWLING HALL OF FAME: A spectacular 3 level museum features exceptional exhibits. Here you will find a fascinating array of paintings, dioramas, tapestries, photographs and unusual memorabilia. You can bowl on old-time or modern lanes and lunch in the Cafe 300. Open daily 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Admission \$2.00. One-half block from hotel.

TOURS VIA FREE LEVEE LINE BUS: In addition to the above-mentioned walking tours, you can easily visit other places of interest in the downtown area by riding for free on the Levee Line Bus to such places as the Riverfront, Laclede's Landing, Gateway Arch, Convention Center, St. Louis Center, Soldier's Memorial and museum, Historic City Hall and St. Louis Union Station: The bus stop is across the street from the hotel on the Broadway side of the Park (Kiener Plaza), and they run every 15-20 minutes. Take the Levee Line bus to the following places to further enjoy your visit in St. Louis.

LACLEDE'S LANDING: A nine-block area of cobblestone streets (comfortable walking shoes are a must for a visit to this area), and cast-iron street lamps surround dozens of renovated and revitalized century-old buildings, housing offices, small shops and boutiques, unusual restaurants and night spots that make this a prime entertainment area. This area is located on the last remaining example of the original street pattern laid out when St. Louis was founded as a French fur-trading village in 1764. A great place to visit during the day!

SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL MILITARY MUSEUM: This memorial building was dedicated in 1936 to St. Louis' veterans and war dead. Military museum exhibits include uniforms, photographs, weaponry, war souvenirs, and regalia. Open daily 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Free. One block north of the bus stop at 14th Street.

ST. LOUIS UNION STATION: (1894) A National historic landmark. This largest train shed in the world has been restored and redeveloped as a festive market place with terraces and fountains under a climate controlled steel and glass vaulted roof. Also architectural treasures of old marble, fresco ceilings, stained glass and original art works date from the great days of rail travel. There are numerous shops, stores, kiosks, street entertainers, restaurants, and a most unusual cocktail lounge on the 2nd floor of the main building. The Hyatt-Regency Hotel is also situated within the confines of Union Station. The architecture of the main building is something to behold: it reminds me of an old German Castle. There is a small lake and a large display of old railroad cars near the parking lot entrance, and inside there is a railroad memory theater for you to take a trip back in time.

USS INAUGURAL: A veteran US Navy minesweeper from WWII. On the riverfront near the riverboat Admiral. Admission \$1.75. Open daily 10 a.m. to dusk.

OPTIONAL TOURS AVAILABLE FROM A LOCAL TOUR COMPANY

ANHAUSER-BUSCH BREWERY: Complimentary hour-long tours take visitors to the World Famous Clydesdale stables, Bevo bottling plant, and the hospitality room where free samples of Busch products are offered. Open Mon.-Fri., 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

GRANT'S FARM: Anheuser-Busch Company operates this picturesque showplace on land once farmed by President U.S. Grant. Ride a trackless train through a game preserve, past the cabin built by Grant in 1856. Visit the Bauerhof containing the trophy room, riding horse stables and a collection of carriages and sleighs. Also, a mini zoo, bird and elephant show, and the clydesdale stallion barn. Free.

FOREST PARK (Zoo, Art Museum, Science Center): The Zoo covers 83 acres of 150 different kinds of animals living in naturalistic exhibits, and a new 17 million dollar living world education center. The Science Center showplace and Science Park, a new concept in outdoors science exhibits. The Art Museum was the Fine Arts Palace of the 1904 World's Fair, and is today considered among the top ten art museums in the nation. Open 10-5 daily except Mondays.

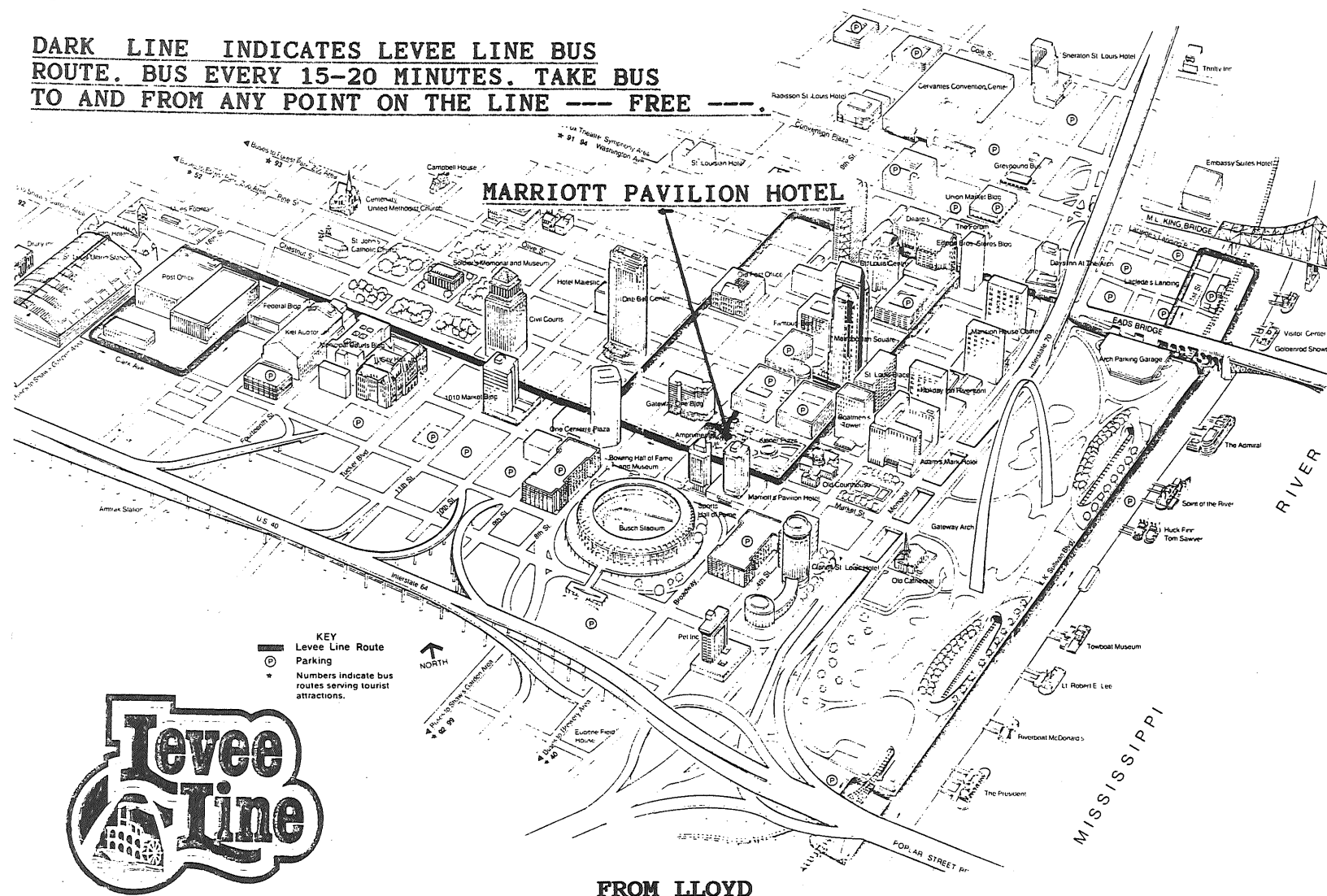
CAHOKIA MOUNDS HISTORIC SITE & MUSEUM: This is the largest prehistoric Indian City north of Mexico dating from 700 AD to 1400 AD with a peak population of 20,000 to 40,000 people. This State Historic and World Heritage Site contains some 100 mounds, ranging in height from a few feet to over 300 feet. A new 10 million dollar museum containing exciting exhibits and continuous showing of the wide-screen production of the story of Cahokia Mounds. The site also contains a

Woodhenge Calendar similar to Stonehenge. These people had a much different culture than the Indians we know, more like the Mayans of Mexico. Open daily 9-5. Free.

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDENS (1859): A National historic landmark, the first of its kind in the U.S. One of the most unique and beautiful gardens in the nation. Contains the world's first geodesic domed greenhouse housing tropical plants. Woodland and scented gardens, and the largest Japanese garden in North America. Admission, \$1.00 for seniors, Open daily 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

That's all for now, but will have more information in the next Newsletter, **BOB and IRENE WATSON**, 40 Harmon Dr., Lebanon, IL 62254, Phone 618-537-6211 (Our phone number in the roster is incorrect).

DARK LINE INDICATES LEVEE LINE BUS ROUTE. BUS EVERY 15-20 MINUTES. TAKE BUS TO AND FROM ANY POINT ON THE LINE --- FREE ---.



FROM LLOYD

Please look at your mailing label on this newsletter. If it does not say "PD-90" after your name, I do not have you paid for 1990 dues. If you have sent dues in after February 15, by which time this newsletter will be in the mail, please disregard this notice. Dues are \$10.00 yearly, Life membership can be had for \$100.00. Members marked "LIFE" should also disregard this notice. Members marked "COMP" may also disregard this notice, they will continue to receive the newsletter, and have their names in the roster, but will **NOT** receive a roster. If I have made a mistake, please get in touch with me as soon as possible.

At the Dayton reunion, the membership voted to drop all members who have not paid dues. I waited until after the New Year, and then dropped slightly over 300 names from the computer. These consisted of members who had not paid for either 1988 or 1989. We have, at the present time, almost 300 more who have not paid for 1990.

I had hoped to get the 1990 Roster out in January, but too many had not paid their 1990 dues. I am sending this newsletter to everyone left, (about 1250) to give those who have not paid for 90 time to catch up before I get the Roster out (about the end of April). **REMEMBER:** Only those who are marked either; PD-90, or LIFE, or COMP will receive the next newsletter, and only those marked PD-90, or LIFE will receive the Roster. Remember, there will be no more notice. If you have sent in your dues prior to receiving this notice, disregard, I will mark you paid.

I have talked and corresponded with **BOB and IRENE WATSON** in St. Louis at least

once a week concerning the reunion, and can assure everyone that we are going to be in for a real treat. BOB and IRENE are no strangers when it comes to putting on a reunion with class. Over the years, they have handled quite a few, primarily, for RV and Camper groups, and related companies. No one is going home disappointed from this one. In addition to being within walking distance of two of the greatest malls, you are close to every kind of food and entertainment you could wish for. Another big plus, airline fares are much cheaper to St. Louis. So: If you enjoyed Colorado Springs, better make St. Louis. BOB and IRENE are out to top it.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR ROSTER

63rd SQUADRON

ART MILLARD
1953 DON LANE
WEBSTER, FL 33597

ARNE E. HALVORSON
2809 JOPPA AVE. SO.
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55416

GEORGE PREZIOSO
50 NAPLES AVE.
BELLEVILLE, NJ 07109

MICHAEL ESPINOSA
ROSS ROAD
PRESTON, CT 06306

CHARLES B. MOORE
5061 N. CAMINO DE LA CUMBRE
TUCSON, AZ 85715

64th SQUADRON

ROBERT "BOB" EBLEN
13541 NW 2ND AVE.
MIAMI, FL 33168

LEE F. MURPHY
2610 UNIVERSITY AVE.
ST. PAUL, MN 55114

M.L. "SHAD" SHADDOX
15723 BLACKHAWK
FRIENDSWOOD, TX 77545

JOSEPH C. DIMAURO
804 EDMOOR RD.
CHERRY HILL, NJ 08034

JOHN G. SMITH
215 SWEETBRIAR DR.
RICHMOND, VA 23233

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

BETTY MC ALLISTER
7426 BUELL ST.
DOWNEY, CA 9024

First, some late news: In response to WALLACE MUNSON'S letter earlier, I received a nice letter from M.L. "SHAD" SHADDOX, his pilot, who has joined as a life member. He gave us the addresses for JOSEPH DIMAURO and JOHN SMITH and they have been sent packets. SHAD also advises that EDWARD H. FORD and JOHN F. SHERWIN are deceased. The others are members of the Association. SHAD fully expects that he and NAOMI will be in St. Louis. Why not make it a crew reunion at the same time?

DALE BARR, 403rd, sent a letter he received from the State of Nebraska concerning the SAC Museum, and his attempt to secure a room for our memorabilia. The study recommends indefinite postponement of any addition to the Museum until long range plans are in place. These are going slow. DALE also received a couple of letters concerning the "Mareeba Butchers" patch. One, from C. "KELLY" O'CONNOR, 403rd, who claims that BILL EATON, 403rd, was quite correct, in a prior newsletter, stating the 403rd was not in Mareeba in 1942. CHUCK'S log indicates they did not move to Mareeba until January 21, 1943. However, he disagrees with BILL'S observation that the 403rd was in Mareeba "only on recon and B-24 check-out". KELLY does not recall any particular B-24 flying during his stay in Mareeba until about May 15th, when they joined the 63rd Squadron and moved to Port Moresby. During April and May of '43, the crews took alternating weekly stints to Moresby for combat participation. During this period, the 403rd was referred to as the "Butchers of Mareeba" by Tokyo Rose.

JEAN JACK, 403rd, also wrote to DALE in regards the "Mareeba Butcher" question. He joined the 403rd at Iron Range (about Oct. '42). They left there in November, and moved to Milne Bay. In the latter part of January 43, after a big Jap raid on Milne Bay, the outfit moved to Mareeba, and about 2 months later, the last two dozen of them arrived in Mareeba. This was after a 3 day cruise by Liberty Ship from Milne Bay to Cairns. JEAN goes on to say he does not believe they operated as a separate squadron out of Mareeba, however, they did rotate crews regularly which were attached to other squadrons in the 43rd Group. These crews were rotated on a weekly basis. Both bombing and recon missions were carried out. JEAN JACK is a former Commanding Officer of the 403rd. DALE flew as tail/gun, and HARRY URBAN as bombardier on his crew.

Had a nice note from a great "GAL", ANNE LEE-WARNER, Assoc., from Australia. She sent in dues and really likes the newsletters. She is definitely planning on being in St. Louis for the reunion. ANNE was bride's-maid for PAT when she and ED FEILLE, 65th, were married.

HELEN GREEN wrote to say that FRANKLYN, 63rd, has been a cardio patient, but is now home but somewhat restricted although they can still travel. Says the Northwest has had some terrific windstorms and lots of snow in the vicinity (their family likes to snow-bike). They send their best wishes for '90, and we hope that travel will be to St. Louis.

Had a long letter from RALPH DE LOACH, 63rd. RALPH has been in close contact with the Cousteau Society, and said the third part of the "BLACK JACK" story was on TV the other night. The Society plans to put the three parts together for distribution on Video Tape, but it may be 6 to 12 months before the one and one half hour film will be in the stores. In the meantime, he has given me the address of the Cousteau Society, and thinks it quite likely they will send a copy for showing at our reunion. I will write them. RALPH says the reason he and GENE have never made a reunion is that they have a cottage in England, and they are always there in September and October. The Cousteau Society also has a book that is out now, called "Cousteau's Papua New Guinea Journey", and is available across the country in book stores. Price \$39.95. Several pages are about "BLACK JACK".

ALLEN CHRISMAN, 65th, R.R. 1 Box 186, Meredosia, IL 62665, thought he got a good picture of the 43rd's plaque at Colorado Springs, but it turned out to be some other group's. If any of you have a good picture of the plaque, send him one.

GARY HAZEN, 63rd, says they really enjoyed the reunion in Colorado Springs, and commend HARRY and RACHEL on an outstanding job, saying it will be hard to top. (I know two people who are sure going to try.) GARY wrote in for a cap. He forgot to get one, and also to tell us they are going to make St. Louis. They have been there many times.

Along that line, I still have Caps left, Colorado Springs and Dayton. Same deal, \$4.00 including postage. I also have a very limited supply of Patches left. Only about 5 of the "LUCKY DICE", and between 10-15 each of the others. All are \$10.00 each including postage.

I am still receiving requests for the A-2 Jacket form. I have the forms, and its still one of the best buys in the country.

CLIFTON WHITE, 403rd, sent for a 403rd patch and Group patch for his jacket when we have the Bangor dedication in May. He has heard from two of the old gang since he joined the 43rd again. DEXTER FAIRBANKS, 403rd, wrote and asked him to contact his tail gunner, ROLAND LA LIBERTE which he did, calling and delivering the message. CLIFTON says he is doing the same thing he did in service, communications. CLIFTON, I do not have ROLAND on the roster, how about dropping me a line and I will write to him, or have him write.

Another looking forward to the St. Louis reunion is ARTHUR MILLARD, 63rd, who found out about the 43rd Association when he ran into ROLAND FISHER, 63rd, at the B-24 50th Anniversary in San Diego last year. ARTHUR lives in Florida near Kissimmee, where they were restoring the B-24 "All American". This revived his interest, and he has been following the restoration ever since. He has contacted JOE TINSMAN, BEN SCHNEIDER, AND MERVYN GADWAH, all 63rd, after receiving his roster. He has just about enough for a crew reunion in St. Louis.

BILL SPENCE, Hdqrs., wants to know what the Life dues amount to. It's \$100.00 BILL. BILL and CLAIRE used to live in Colorado Springs, but that was where a sad tale begins: In 1946, in August, he was sent to OCS at Ft. Benning, GA. While there, the big separation took place. The tragedy of his life happened then, he and several of his class-mates were notified they would not be returning to the Air Force upon graduation, but would be assigned for duty with a branch of the Army. That's where he retired from. He is one happy man to be back with the 43rd again.

Received a letter from THOMAS MINLIONICA, 65th. He sends an answer to page 15, item 15 on LARRY HICKEY'S questionnaire in the last newsletter. The B-17, "LAK-A-NOOKY" was assigned to the 65th Squadron at Port Moresby. He flew as a waist gunner on 3 March '43 aboard "LAK-A-NOOKY" along with 2 other B-17s to bomb shipping in Lae Harbor. They were attacked by a flight of Zero's over the target, and during the battle he shot down a Zero and our planes returned safely. He can't remember the name of the other crew member who shot down a Zero

as he was only a fill in gunner on the flight. The only other crew member He can recall by name was an officer by the name of JACK CAPERTON, the bombardier. TOM, CAPERTON, 65th, will be in St. Louis.

Received a letter from DON PURDY, 403rd. He recalls meeting the designer of the "MAREEBA BUTCHERS" patch. It was on Owi, and his name was HAROLD SMITH. He showed DON a sample of the 403rd emblem and sketches of designs to be submitted to other organizations in the area. DON wanted me to list his duty as pilot in the next roster. This has been done, which brings me to another point: We are lacking too much information on some of you guys. Please look at your roster, and if we are missing information on you, or if the information is wrong, let me know quick. Would you believe we actually have one Life member who is listed in Squadron Unknown. Please fellows, get your name up to date in the roster.

Had a nice letter from REG and LUCILLE TATRO, 65th. LUCILLE has had eye problems serious enough to keep them from Colorado Springs, even though they spent 4 years there. They hope to make St. Louis. Last summer, they enjoyed a visit from J.T. BRITTON, 65th. He was in the East doing his thing (playing bridge), and they enjoyed the visit. If my memory serves me right, J.T. has now played in every State in the Union. REG and LUCILLE are spending the winter at their home in Massachusetts for only the second time in the past 12 years. Their winters are usually spent in the Texas Rio Grande Valley. They had almost forgotten what snow was like. After the Northeast got buried under a foot or more of snow, they remember.

CHRIS SLONE, top gun on Lt. PAUL PIRKO'S crew at Clark and I Shima, writes: "I don't know if I paid my 1990 dues or not as my memory isn't too good these days. You just wait until you get 39 and you will see what it does to your memory." CHRIS says he is sorry to have missed Colorado Springs, but he is all set for St. Louis. He says: "If you saw "FORTY EIGHT HOURS" on TV last month about "MUDDY GUT HOLLOW", you may think we don't have enough gas to get out of the State. The news media gives us Hill Billies a hard way to go, but I think I will manage to get enough gas to drive to St. Louis. Way to go, CHRIS."

PAUL SEYMOUR, 403rd, who lives in Australia, is sending a sheet music copy of "The Aussies and the Yanks are here" to Bill Wilson. He found it in a small music shop in Adelaide. Says "God bless".

ELEUTERIO NAVA, who was on RALPH POULSEN'S crew in the 65th, is confined to a wheel chair, and says he missed the Colorado Springs reunion - didn't want to be a hindrance to anyone. "Just plain Nava" (as his family said he was called) would be surprised to see the number of members who attend on crutches and in wheel chairs. ELEUTERIO was one of four enlisted men who were decorated by Gen. Kenney with the Soldier's Medal for rescuing their pilot and co-pilot after their B-24 ditched off New Guinea. He has nose art pictures he plans to send later.

CHUCK and MIDGE DOWNER, 403rd, sent a word of thanks to all those who keep the 43rd alive, and make it so much fun for everyone. CHUCK'S name was left off the list of those who attended the Colorado Springs reunion. (I will try to work out a different set up to get the names this year. In the past I have relied solely on the sheet where you sign in by Squadrons when you register.) Thanks for the kind words, CHUCK.

LUCKY STEVENS, 64th, sent in a Life membership, and his regrets on missing the Colorado Springs reunion. He and PHIL HOFFECKER, 64th, had previous commitments, but both plan on making St. Louis.

LATE NEWS CONCERNING THE BANGOR, MAINE MINI-REUNION

BILL WILSON, called last night, after spending most of the day on the phone with the people concerned with the Bangor dedication, hotel, airport, etc.: The dedication of the Memorial Plaque will be held at the Bangor International Airport the morning of Saturday, May 5th, 1990.

The Bangor Hilton Airport, phone 1-207-947-6721, will be the Host Hotel, rates \$58.00 single or double. These rates will be effect from May 3rd to May 6th. Be sure to specify you are with the 43rd Bomb Group. We have 40 rooms held until April 4th, so you will need to get your reservation in as early as possible. The hotel has agreed to work with us and route any late reservations to a nearby Ramada Inn. The price may vary in this case.

We plan on having a mini-reunion on Friday the 4th at the Hotel for those attending, so come on Friday for a Friday night get together. If we have enough

in attendance, we have been given a room where we can meet Friday night, and if so, we will try to arrange a dinner for then. Cost will be for the meal only.

DENNIS LOMBARDI, 403rd, who has made the arrangements for us, has contacted Brig/Gen. Nicholas Eremita, Commander of the Maine Air National Guard, and he has been kind enough to arrange the color guard and ceremony for the dedication at which he will preside. DENNIS has also sent invitations to other dignitaries of both the City of Bangor and the State of Maine. Should be quite impressive.

We would like to thank Ms. Judy Perkins and Staff of the Bangor Chamber of Commerce for their help in organizing this ceremony, and Mr. Peter D-Errico, Mgr., Bangor International Airport, for his help in arranging and setting up the site for the dedication.

In order to get the lowest rates and facilitate your air travel, the following arrangements have been made. As you can see, they apply, both to the Bangor and St. Louis trips:

Travel Arrangements

For the 43rd Bomb Group Memorial Dedication and Mini-Reunion in Bangor, Maine, we have contracted with Ambassador Travel to handle travel arrangements for the convenience of all attendees. This includes special pricing schedules for airlines, and car rentals. **These discounts are substantial** and as such we highly recommend that you provide Ambassador the opportunity to serve you before making these arrangements on your own.

- A. When you call, ask for the **Group Department** and identify yourself as an attendee to the 43rd Bomb Group Memorial Dedication. The phone numbers are **1-(800)-233-8263 or (206) 623-0484**. 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday - Friday.
- B. For promotional fares that require immediate purchase, a credit card number and authorization for its use may be given to the travel consultant. In these cases, an invoice will be sent along with the ticket.
- C. Your tickets will be sent at least two weeks prior to departure.

For your convenience, Ambassador's Fax Number is **(206) 467-9186**.

Travel Arrangements

For the 1990 43rd Bomb Group Reunion in St. Louis, we have contracted with Ambassador Travel to handle travel arrangements for the convenience of all attendees. This includes special pricing schedules for airlines, and car rentals. **These discounts are substantial** and as such we highly recommend that you provide Ambassador the opportunity to serve you before making these arrangements on your own.

- A. When you call, ask for the **Group Department** and identify yourself as an attendee to the 43rd Bomb Group Reunion. The phone numbers are **1-800-233-8263 or (206) 623-0484**. 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday - Friday.
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- C. Your tickets will be sent at least two weeks prior to departure.

For your convenience, Ambassador's Fax Number is **(206) 467-9186**.

43rd History co-authors Larry Hickey and Bruce Hoy want to thank all of you who responded to the last questionnaire and sent in your pre-publication orders to help support this very costly publishing project. We got very few responses to our last questionnaire and badly need answers to the questions below. We also need many more book orders to make this book project viable. So, if you have information, photos or diaries please sit down now and send it to us. We still need personal recollections of your most interesting, exciting or important missions or experiences, stories of camp life, etc. Send all photos and B-24 material to Larry Hickey, International Research & Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 3334 High Mar Station, Boulder, CO 80307. On B-17s, contact directly Bruce Hoy, P.O. Box 249; Aspley, Queensland 4034, Australia. Col. Jim Pettus has agreed to write the Preface to the book and is hard at work on it. We are still struggling with a title. Some suggestions have been "Ken's Men Against the Empire," "Ken's Men on the Road To Tokyo," and "Ready, Willing and Able (the Group motto)." Let's hear suggestions from the unit membership for a really dynamite title to the group history. All ideas are welcome. Send all suggestions directly to Larry Hickey.

General

1. We have had only modest success locating color movie film, slides or photos showing aircraft artwork, bases, missions, etc. for the 50-60 color photos planned for the color section of the book. Please help if you have any color material.
2. We need hard copies of any of the Group or Squadron records from the Maxwell AFB Archive microfilms or copies of the originals obtained overseas with the unit. This includes copies of both Group and Squadron historical reports. Are copies out there?
3. Urgently need copies of diaries, flightlogs, narratives for major decorations such as Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, DFC, DSC, etc.
4. The 63rd SQ maintained a SQ diary until the end of their B-17 operations. Does anyone know of the existence of squadron diaries for 64th, 65th and 403rd and for 63rd from Oct 19, '43 to Aug 45?
5. Need SQ & the tail # for B-17F named THE STINGAREE #2. Was there a #1 and if so what was tail number. Also require SQ & tail # for B-17F BLONDE BOMBER with B-17E nose.
6. On June 14, '43, B-17 of Lt. Pickard crashed on T.O. at 7-Mile. Was the aircraft taking off towards Bootless Bay? Need eye-witnesses and photos.
7. On 11/11/42 B-17F of Maj. Thomas Charles ran off end of runway at (Iron Range? Mareeba?) and demolished. Need tail # and names of crew and passengers.
8. On 3/29/43 B-17 flown by Maj. McCullar hit by AA over Gasmata. Who were the crewmen aboard and what were the details of action and subsequent events?
9. Can anyone provide squadron, tail numbers, ground crew names for following B-24s believed from 43rd? BARBARA JEAN, BEN BUZZARD, DUCHESS, FAT STUFF, THE FLYING FIFEN, FURIOUS SAL, HAND JOB, HELEN'S REVENGE, LUCKY PUPPY, MAG THE HAG, THE MRS, NAUGHTY BLUE EYES, THE PETER HEATER, PICKLED PEACH, PUG NOSE, SACKTIME UNLIMITED, SITTING PRETTY, SKY WITCH, SLIDIN, THE SNOOPER, SOOPER DROOPER, SWEET ROUTINE, WOLF, THE GOON. Need any info on these A/C.

63RD SQUADRON

10. Who added the 2 x .50 cal nose guns to B-17 THE LAST STRAW? Conversion details?
11. We need good photos of B-17 KA-PUHIO-WELA aka DOUBLE TROUBLE for use as an artist guide for a color profile. Anyone know the history of this aircraft, its crew chief's name, the meaning of the Hawaiian nickname and the color of the lettering? It was the B-17 lost during the Bismarck Sea Battle.
12. We now know that Thomas Rote designed the 63rd "Seahawks" emblem in the summer of 1944 at Owi Island. We still don't know when this emblem was put on the tails of the 63rd's black B-24s. It had to have been after October, 1944. Can anyone pin down the date more precisely than that? Who actually painted the insignia on the plane tails? We need all available photos of "Seahawk" emblem on B-24 tails.
13. Several wrote in suggesting the all-black paint was first applied to 63rd B-24s about September 1944. One source says after October 1944. Can anyone provide more definite dates?
14. The wheel of early 63rd B-24 WHO'S NEXT broke on landing; does anyone know when, where, and how it happened? Can anyone provide the serial number and crew chief of early B-24 LADY LUCK? Was SHIRLEY ANN a 63rd or 65th Squadron B-24? Does anyone know anything about a B-24 named SITTING PRETTY?
15. We've received several photos of a late-war black B-24 #126 with a scoreboard below the pilot's window with 18 ships sunk and 28 mission markers. We want to do a color profile of this aircraft, but need details of crew chief, nickname (if any) and stories of the missions it flew. Can anyone help? Need photos of black B-24 BOOTS #127.
16. We also want to profile the B-24 "QUEEN OF HEARTS" and need similar info. Was this an all-black aircraft?
17. We need nicknames and photos of 63rd SQ B-24s not mentioned above.

64TH SQUADRON

18. B-17 #408 was damaged over Rabaul on 6/10/43. Landed at Dobodura. Need names of crewmen on this mission.
19. B-17 SPAWN OF HELL (662) was badly damaged by Zeros on 6/1/43 with 4 WIA. Need names of wounded and names of rest of crew. Was this last mission of plane?
20. Ref. 64th B-17 LITTLE BUSTER UPPER (648); who was crew when #3 engine and left wing shot up over Rabaul on 6/30/43?

CONTINUED ON BACK SIDE

21. We need full info (artwork color details, crew chiefs names and tail numbers) on the following B-24s reported in 64th: NOBODY'S BABY, THE RECORD BREAKERS, IT AIN'T SO FUNNY (#853), LAST HORIZON, SHAWNEE RAIDER (Chepulis crew chief), LOVELY ANNETTE (808?; Haas crew chief), GALLANT LADY (later LADY LYNN).
22. Was diagonal white band first applied to stabilizers of 64th B-24s in August of 1943? Were white cowlings painted on some planes at the same time? When were red and white tail stripes first applied to the SQ's uncamoouflaged B-24 tails?
23. By whom, when and where was the 64th "Indian boy with a telescope riding a bomb" insignia first designed?
24. Can anyone provide full nose-to-tail photos of these B-24s: COCKTAIL HOUR, HEAVENLY BODY, IT AIN'T SO FUNNY, LAST HORIZON, MICHIGAN, MABEL'S LABELS, or THE RECORD BREAKERS? Need nose art photo of LOVELY ANNETTE.
- 65TH SQUADRON
25. B-17 #637 hit in tail turret over Rabaul 6/13/43. Who was tail gunner and crew?
26. B-17 NAUGHTY BUT NICE (#430), when and why was tail replaced?
27. Need eyewitness accounts of 65th Sq Cape Gloucester mission 9/2/43. Who last saw B-17 flown by Lt. LaPorte? Plane was missing and has never been found.
28. Require crew names for the following missions of B-17 THE OLD MAN: 1/16/43 (shipping Rabaul); 1/21/43 (Lakunai); 1/24/43 (Rabaul - 2 WIA, who?); 2/2 and 2/13/43 (both Rabaul); 3/8/43 (fought Zeros over Gasmata); 6/10 and 6/13/43 (both Vunakanau).
29. Need color details, crew chief names and artwork color details for following B-24s: JUNGLE QUEEN, KENTUCKY VIRGIN (later SURE POP), TWO BOB TILLIE, GERALDINE, MR. 5 BY 5, THE PREGNANT WHALE (Pilot Miller?); need crew chief's name for LUCKY LUCILLE and date and details of crash landing at Milne Bay, N.G.; need color details, service dates, and tail number of B-24 QUEEN OF THE CLOUDS.
30. Need above info plus serial #s of B-24s SHIRLY ANN (may have been 63rd a/c), VIRGIN II, WINDY CITY KITTY, RUM & COKE, PETTY GAL, COME AND GET IT, BIG ASS BIRD (crew chiefs Brown/Govoni).
31. We think 65th SQ dice emblem was designed in September or October 1943 and applied to B-24 tails shortly thereafter. Can anyone provide more information on this? Need all possible photos of use of this on a/c tails.
32. TARGET FOR TONIGHT #060. Need regular pilot and crew chief's name as well as color artwork details and plane history.
33. Need nicknames and info on any other 65th B-24s not listed here.
34. Need photos or nose art for MISSIN' YOU (399).
35. When and at what base was name KEN'S MEN first applied to pilot's side of 65th SQ B-24 noses?
36. When and where was the tail B-24 rudder striping first applied on 65th B-24s?
- 403RD SQUADRON
37. We have virtually no identifications of nicknames or nose art on 403rd SQ B-17s. Can anyone supply some?
38. Early 403rd SQ B-24s used a white front tip on top of the stabilizers. We think this was first applied about August, 1943. Can anyone confirm this?
39. The following 403rd SQ B-24 nicknames are known: ACE O' SPADES, FLAMIN' MAMIE, FLYING FANNIE*, THE FLYING WOLF*, GENTLEMAN JIM*, JOLTIN JANIE, JUNE BRIDE*, THE MIRAGE*, PRIDE OF THE CORNHUSKERS*, RIO RITA, SACK BOUND*, SATAN'S SISTER, STUGOT'S 1ST*, TAILSKID TOLLIE, MILLION \$ BABY (I & II), VIRGINIA GIRL, MAREEBA BUTCHER'S, KEN'S MEN (with MAREEBA BUTCHER'S insignia). Need crew chief's names, artwork color details, and dates of loss (for planes with * also need serial number).
40. When was MAREEBA BUTCHER'S Squadron insignia painted on noses of all 403rd B-24s? Some have reported about mid-1944. Confirmation? (Three examples known from photos)
41. By whom and when was MAREEBA BUTCHER'S Squadron insignia designed?

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REMEMBER, Pre-Register and become eligible for the A-2 Jacket drawing!!
