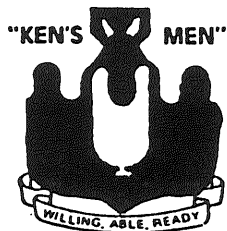


FORTY THIRD BOMB GROUP SSN. INC.

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Bill Wilson, Pres. 65th
Dale Barr, Vice Pres. 403rd
Lloyd Boren, Secty. Treas 65th
PAST PRESIDENTS
Bob Butler 63rd
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Jim Harcrow 65th Nick Arabinko 64th
Jim Pettus Hdqs Robert Cooper 64th
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63rd Sqdn.



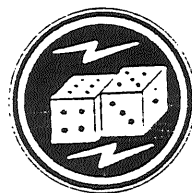
64th Sqdn.



403rd Sqdn.



65th Sqdn.



43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER

35th EDITION - May 1990

FROM BILL WILSON

I'm starting this letter at Easter time. Our friend JACK FAERBER, 65TH, stat - clerk, has asked that we be remembered in a Mass Novena at the National Shrine of our Lady of the Snows. Very, very thoughtful, JACK, and may God bless you.

A while back, we got HERBERT CONVERSE, 64th, of Montgomery, Alabama, to get with Maxwell Air Force Base and get all the information they had on the 43rd Bomb Group. Turned out they had two rolls of microfilm. We got two copies of each. LLOYD BOREN has one set and I have the other. To be useful, we needed to get the film printed. Western Texas College here in Snyder has a new viewer with the printing attachment. I talked them into printing 2 copies of each film. I told them there would be 250 to 300 pages on each roll. Two months later we have 3,636 pages of 43rd History. Weight is 39 lbs. 403rd "Eager Beaver", DALE BARR, is always calling and writing, wanting to help. Yesterday, I mailed him 39 lbs, 3,636 pages to be lined up by dates and etc., and bound. DALE is very good at this type of work. Hope he gets through in time for St. Louis. Great undertaking. This history was filmed in early 40's. Most very good, some pretty sad.

PAUL R. SEYMORE, 403rd, sent a copy of the original music sheets to "THE AUSSIES AND THE YANKS ARE HERE". PAUL found this in a music shop in Adelaide, Australia this past year. Music buffs, need a copy? Let me know and I'll make one for you Thanks PAUL.

BILL EATON, 403rd, has lots of fun exchanging letters with the fellows. All the way from the "MAREEBA BUTCHERS" thing to how many Jap fighters showed up on a certain mission. Before you try him, I can tell you he is sharp. His mother didn't raise a dummy. Keep em straight BILL.

FRED and MARGARET BLAIR, 63rd Bombardier, sent Christmas greetings from Down Under. FRED still can't get used to hot Christmases.

JIM PETTUS, Hdqrs., writes that he is working on the preface of our book. He, along with many others, does not like LARRY HICKEY'S suggestion for a title, "KENS MEN AGAINST THE EMPIRE". Any ideas? Let LARRY know.

Got a copy of "AIRPOWER", very good story on GEN. MACARTHUR and GEN. KENNY in "BATTLE OF NEW GUINEA". Combined operations did it, and we were there.

This job seems to get harder all the time, BREEZY, our famous secretary, keeps sending some of the troops by to see if I'm on the job. But it was real nice of O.K. COULTER, 64th, and his brother-in-law to stop by the other day. Had a great visit. He is trying to get the Confederate Air Force's B-17, "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" to come to St. Louis for our reunion. O.K. is the crew chief and does lots of work to keep it flying. A real special fellow.

CHARLES GIDDINGS, 64th pilot, reports the passing of LUKE V. SONNER, JR., a 403rd pilot. He Died the 21st of March 1990. LUKE was a B-24 pilot, served in the 43rd in 1944 and 1945. CHARLIE GIDDINGS will not be in St. Louis, his cadet class is having their 50th reunion. Where did all the time go?

MAX and MARGARET AXELSON, 403rd, DALE and GEN BARR, 403rd, and several others sent word of the deactivation of the 43rd BOMB WING. The deactivation will complete 49 years of service. What a record! From the 13th Recon, Langley Field, VA., to Bangor, ME., for a modest beginning to great heights. Some outfit!!

BOB WATSON, 65th, "Our Man in St. Louis", says he and IRENE have set all signals to go for the reunion this fall. Lots to do, and a great place to stay. Best meet me there. This will be another maximum effort.

Norfolk, Virginia, Langley Field, etc., for October 1991, is pretty well put to bed. Omni Hotel, tours to Williamsburg, Norfolk, Navel Base, Langley Air Force Base, where we will dedicate another plaque, etc. Two great reunions coming up so take care of your health. Gotta make roll call.

FRED M. PETERS, 63rd, sent in a very nice check to the memorial fund, along with best wishes to each of us. Thanks FRED for the help.

STAN and BONITA CASEY, 63rd, are still enjoying the fun they had in Colorado Springs. I think we all are, STAN. They enjoy the news letters.

BRYAN FLATT, 403rd, has asked STAN if anyone knows what happened to bombardier JOHN BURTIS. BRYAN thinks that when they got back to the States, JOHN went through pilot training and was killed in Korea. Anyone know?

WALTER S. HAYS, 64th tail gunner for Capt. ROSS, is 81 years young, and sent in his \$100.00 for Life Membership. Also a nice memorial gift. Way to go WALTER.

BOB and DORIS BUTLER, 63rd, along with LLOYD and HELEN BOREN, 65th, met in late February in Norfolk, Virginia at the Omni International Hotel and got everything locked in for the '91 reunion. With BOB and IRENE WATSON'S show coming up this fall and Norfolk next fall, all I can say is take care and God Bless so we can all make roll call. The 91 reunion will mark the 50th anniversary of the 43rd's start at Langley

The annual audit of the Groups finances reflects and excellent picture. Your decision to install the pay up or get dropped got quite a few on the ball. Checking account about \$18,000.00 at 6%. This will go for four newsletters and the yearly roster which is being mailed today, along with normal expenses. You should receive the roster before this newsletter. Our life fund \$6,200.00, in a CD @ 8%. Interest to be paid into the General fund. \$3,700.00 in the memorial fund also drawing interest. I think we have our business in good shape.

Mrs. ANN SURANYI, 2 Dougan Street, Ashfield, N.S.W. Australia 2131 is still looking for BOB (ROBERT) and DUKE. July 1942 they stayed at the Imperial Hotel, Cairns, when they got a three day pass. BOB'S surname may be "Black". They were about 20 years old at the time and may have transferred to the 43rd in the Fall. Anyone have any ideas, let ANN know.

RICH and MILDRED HOWARD, 63rd, sent us an invitation to visit their ranch in Montana this summer. They are a little isolated. 30 or 40 miles to a neighbor. Mail twice a week. Sounds great. Hope to make it some time. Thanks for the invite. RICH was flight engineer on KENT ZIMMERMAN'S crew.

ROBERT "BOB" LEFF, 65th, called the other night. He has lots of pictures of his B-24 missions, June, July, and August 1945. Check with him. He will share.

KENNETH and ADELE STEVENS, 64th, are sorry they missed Colorado Springs reunion. KENNETH was feeling a little puny. Are back going great and looking forward to St. Louis. Getting well was easy with all the cards and letters from the 43rd fellows. He is feeling so good he is mad at me for picking on GEORGE WHITE.

CARL and GINNY HUSTAD, 63rd, is sorry he can't make the memorial service at Bangor. He is going to the 50th anniversary of the class of 40-B. Recalls KEN MCCULLAR, BOB KEATS, and GENE HOLLIWELL were class mates. They were all killed in action. CARL recalls many things about the start of the 43rd. Langley Field to Dow Field, the assortment of planes PT-17, B-18B, Lockheed Hudson, and finally one B-17B. Bad weather which maybe helped to get over the Owen Stanley Mountains. Pearl Harbor, then the 8th of December 1941, the first anti submarine patrol. The air craft was a B-18. Eating Maine lobster with FATHER SHEA at the Penobscot Exchange. Price \$1.75, (Hope it hasn't gone up), I would like to try it. Finally at 04:00 hrs, a train to Boston and the Queen Mary. Destination? Who knows. We will be thinking of you CARL and the rest of the early birds.

DOUG and ILIENE LEAMAN, 65th, were recalling Chapel #3, Lowry Field, 2nd July

1944. The gal in the PX and the instructor on turrets tied the knot. DOUG receives quite a lot of mail from his old running mates. Needs to find ELWOOD BENTLEY of Washington State, last assignment, 403rd, and also DAVE ECHO, 65th, a friend of TOMMY THOMAS, both from Los Angeles.

DR. HARRY L. KRENEK, and others, at Western Texas College are big fans of the 43rd newsletter and JOEL GRIFFIN'S reprint on his P.O.W. tour. Dr. Krennek came across a Franklin D. Roosevelt remark which I pass along. "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy, forget in time that men have died to win them."

DAYTON and ANN BLANCHARD, 65th, sent a travel folder on Papua, New Guinea. Many colorful pictures. On page seven, lower right hand side of the page, this fellow has quite a head dress plus a big bone through his nose. DAYTON was not sure if it was GEORGE WHITE, or me. incidentally, LLOYD writes that DAYTON'S name comes up on television quite often in the San Antonio area. Seems DAYTON supplies one of the local television stations with weather information (temperature, rain, etc.) around the Randolph, Universal City area.

WAYNE and BERTHA TACKINGTON, 403rd, sent in a super gift to the memorial fund. Sorry they missed Colorado Springs, but are all set for St. Louis. Want to see PAUL and CAROLYN COBER, JACK PERKINS, and STAN and LILLIAN TULIG, all 403rd.

JOEL GRIFFIN, 403rd gunner, would like very much to have a picture of B-17E "Tax Payer's Pride". This is the aircraft he was shot down in. If you have a picture please share it with JOEL. Thanks.

W.R. "BILL" and BETTY GAFFNEY, 65th, hope to make the St. Louis reunion, and says, his bombardier, "BUD" LAWSON, makes them all. Enjoys the newsletters, and will see you in St. Louis.

LEROY and ELIZABETH GROSS, 403rd, enjoy the newsletters very much. LEROY has had a little sick spell but is much better. Best not count on St. Louis, but look out for Norfolk. Send best regards to all.

MILLER ALLEN LASHLEY, Hdqrs., reports the passing of ROBERT H. LEAF, 65th, at Fairmont West Virginia on the 3rd of March 1990. ROBERT worked for Westinghouse for 37 years. His wife KATE survives. Please drop her a note.

WILLIAM "BILL" and CLAIRE SPENCE, Hdqrs., sent in Life membership. BILL is pleased to hear about Norfolk reunion in '91. Also wants to know who lost their false teeth on the Newcastle to Williamstown ferry, 1942, Australia. Get well BILL, we need you at these reunions.

JOE and ELIZABETH HIRSH, 63rd, are having a great time seeing the world. Air Force space available airlines. JOE, has pretty well taken ELIZABETH to all of his overseas stations. Sends blessings to LLOYD and HELEN BOREN for all the work.

DR. EUGENE and HELEN AUSTIN, Hdqrs. surgeon, sent in Life membership. GENE thinks they have a shot at the St. Louis reunion. Making big plans. There were other reports in his letter, but I can't read them. Doctors learned that from Lawyers, I guess.

JOHN and HELEN MANSKER, 63rd, enjoy the newsletter (I like to put this in so GEORGE WHITE knows some people think the newsletter is pretty good). JOHN was the crew chief of the B-24 that Lt. WILLIAM WILLIAMS crash landed. Last three numbers of the aircraft were 676. STEVE BIRDSALL'S book describes the event accurately. Good report JOHN.

ELWYN and ALMA HANSON, 63rd, sent a nice letter written on Valentine's day. Fire in the fireplace, snow outside, maybe 7 or 8 inches. A nice February night in Nebraska. Their trip back home from the Colorado Springs reunion had snow. A little fun at times and well worth the trip. Lots of cards and notes at Christmas from the 43rd bunch.

CHARLIE BELLOWS, 65th, sends the sad news of the passing of his lovely wife GENEVA. She had three bad weeks before departing this world on 3 February 1990. GENEVA was a regular at the reunions and we will all miss her. Our love goes out to CHARLIE.

JOE and EVELYN LAWHN, 403rd, are trying to locate all air crews that bombed the City of Iwakoni on Honshy Island, 9th August, 1945. The flight was from Ie Shima at the same time the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. You could have

received radiation. Check with Joe if you have any questions.

EARL C. OZMENT, Associate member, spent time with the 43rd at Davis Monthan in 1948. Remembers "LUCKY LADY II" and her 94 hour trip around the world. Capt. JAMES G. GALLAGHER, was in command of the B-50. Nice to get a report on the 43rd after WW II.

ELEUTERIO NAVA, 65th, has been flying a wheel chair for the last 5 years. Hopes to get better so he can make a reunion. Sent in an interesting news clipping of 13 November 1943. NAVA was on POULSON'S crew when they ditched B-24, "TARGET FOR TONIGHT". NAVA was able to get out of the aircraft. The others were still trapped. He returned, broke open the hatch and freed NICHOLAS J. MARCINEK, HERBERT M. BILLINGTON, and MICHAEL J. REILLY. Then the four of them finally got the pilot and co-pilot out. TERIO spent 24 years in the Air National Guard, and retired as a Light Colonel. Good show, Yank.

CARLOS and PAT KESSEL, 403rd, sent in Life membership. Not getting forgetful but hopes to be around long enough to be. I'm with you CARLOS. Take care.

MARCUS and BEATRICE CARRELL, 65th, wants to know when we will have another reunion in Texas. Well, you know 90 is St. Louis (center of U.S.), '91 (East coast), home of Langley Air Force Base, and 50th Anniversary of the start of the 43rd. And '92, the "QUEEN MARY" (West coast). The 50th Anniversary of the famous 43rd Boat Ride to Australia. Maybe '93, who knows. JOE ESPOSITO, 65th, and DOC GUSACK, 65th Flight Surgeon, sent MARCUS a number of pictures. How about some help, MARCUS needs to find co-pilot HOWARD MC EVER, and bombardier, JACK CLARK. He thinks MC EVER stayed in the service and flew with SAC.

DONALD H. BANCROFT, 63rd, joined the 43rd on 14th May 1945 at Clark Field. He needs help locating his crew. JOHN W. PARRISH, co-pilot, ARTHUR J. WASHKOSKE, bombardier, A.J. GERSHOW navigator, A.J. MUSTO, radar operator, R.N. SANSOSTI, engineer, I.M. NOLAN, radio operator, G.B. ZIEGLER, waist gun, and R.B. CONRAD, tail turret. DONALD doesn't recall Black B-24's in the 63rd with any Seahawks, art work, etc. at Clark, Ie Shima, or Atsugi.

WALLACE MUNSON, 64th, sends thanks for all the help in finding his crew. All but two are present and accounted for. The two still missing are HAROLD F. RICHMOND, gunner, and T.J. LAMORGE, engineer. WALLACE'S phone number is 602-378-2165. Good work fellows, another 43rd fellow made happy.

JOSEPH E. BEVILL, 403rd, wanted his correct duty assignment and phone number shown. You got it, JOE, nothing but first class service in this outfit. Right, GEORGE?

RALPH DE LOACH, 63rd, is working to get early release of another film for special showing to the 43rd in St Louis. HARRY STALEY, 63rd, and LLOYD BOREN, 65th, are also working on this. (note from LLOYD - HARRY STALEY has been successful in getting a copy of the video tape made by JACQUES COUSTEAU on New Guinea). RALPH says a new book that is now at all book stores is "COUSTEAU'S NEW GUINEA JOURNEY", a real treat. You may want to pick up a copy. Thanks for the effort and information.

JININE FETZER, wife of FRED J. FETZER, 65th, reports his passing 24th July 1989. FRED looked forward to the newsletters and the reports on his many friends. We will all miss FRED. Drop JANINE a note.

Received letters from LARRY HICKEY and BRUCE HOY. LARRY received the 43rd records I sent him, but still urgently needs Squadron histories and diaries or information on any info on day to day combat missions. BRUCE HOY wrote a long letter and I will try to list his questions, which some of you can answer. BRUCE'S address is: P.O. Box 249, Aspley, QLD 4034, Australia. Several suggestions have been made as to the title of our book, LARRY HICKEY suggested "KEN'S MEN AGAINST THE EMPIRE", BRUCE suggests "WITH KEN'S MEN TO VICTORY", but he really thinks that we should have more suggestions from the Group. Lets get some in.

BRUCE continues: JOSEPH LEONARD ROFF, (in the last newsletter) was not a member of the 19th Bomb Group, according to the Group roster, so if he was in fact a bombardier in a B-17, it must have been the 43rd.

BRUCE would appreciate hearing from DOUG LEAMAN, a crew member of "TAX PAYERS PRIDE", in the hope that he may have additional information on the flights he made in this and other B-17's, as well as a picture of "TAX PAYERS PRIDE".

He noticed the item from JOE HOWARD, 65th. He does not recall getting anything

from LARRY re: JOE HOWARD, so hopes that it comes soon. Failing that, perhaps he will drop JOE a line.

Was very interested in the item from THOMAS MINLIONICA, partially answering his question #15. THOMAS was in the same crew that shot down a Zero near Lae on 8 January 43. BILL BOLY being also on the crew. On that date, VERNON STRAWSER was the pilot at the time. Perhaps BILL BOLY may have been on THOMAS'S crew for the 3 March 43 mission.

One thing that bothers BRUCE HOY, is the lack of response for all the B-17 questions that he has had in the last two newsletters. Remember, BRUCE HOY is writing the B-17 part of the book, anyone with diaries, notes on missions, and General Orders, etc. He needs human interest stories, not only from air crews, but the guys who stayed on the ground and kept the whole show on the road.

Anyone able to help with diaries, flight logs, personal reminiscences or notes, maintenance records, etc., lets get them to BRUCE if it concerns B-17's.

BRUCE needs to hear from the following, listing what records they might have available: W. M. AHL, C. L. ANDERSON, W. E. ANDREWS, F. L. BARBUS, M. K. BASS, W. E. BILL, W. A. BOLY, W. N. BOYD, J. BREEN, J. F. CAPERTON, E. FEILLE, A. A. FLETCHER, H. T. HASTINGS, L. D. HOLMES, M. E. NELSON, E. F. PERKINS, D. PITTENGER, R. QUILLEN, V. H. REEVES, and L. H. WALTMAN

ROGER KETTLESON, 64th, writes that he and AUDREY enjoyed a visit with FALCNOR and GOLDIE GIFFORD, 64th, in March on their way through "Sin City", then in April, O.K. and BECKY COULTER, 64th, were in for a visit. ROGER and AUDREY left shortly after for a weeks visit with their son and family in Hawaii (Hilo). Saw some of the devastation caused by the volcanic lava advance, a terrible sight. They also spent a couple days in Honolulu, and called JIM PETTUS. JIM said BETTY was recuperating from back surgery. They hope to make St. Louis (this was JIM'S home town before the war). CARL and WILMA NELSON, 64th, also visited them while in Vegas for golf. ROGER and AUDREY will be in St. Louis.

That's about it for now, DENNIS LOMBARDI, 403rd, has things set for the Memorial service 5th of May, Bangor International Air Port (old Dow Field). From all reports, we will have a good turn out. GEORGE WHITE threatens to give the same treatment my great Grandfather got in Yankee land. Not so, says General NICHOLAS EREMITA, safe passage for Rebs. Sure hope so. JAY ZEAMER, the Governor, the Mayor and many others will be there.

BOB WATSON is keeping a close watch on St. Louis for us. It will be a big show. Do yourself a favor, be there. MARY LOIS joins me in sending our love, and may God bless each of you.

ST. LOUIS REUNION UP-DATE

FROM BOB and IRENE WATSON

"Meet me in St. Louie, Louie". This Nationally known refrain reminds us that St. Louis is the place to meet this year for the gala 10th reunion of all you 43rd Bomb Group Association members. Come to St. Louis to see where it all began, and have a grand-ole-time seeing your friends once again, do some exciting things and stay at a truly great hotel - the Marriott Pavilion Hotel, right smack-dab in the middle of everything in the downtown area. Many of you are already familiar with Marriott's high quality of service and facilities. This will be no different. In fact, the location here makes it even better! So, y'all come, heah?

For your reunion pleasure, we have an excellent program of activities already set up, that includes Golf, Tennis, and Bridge tournaments; a fantastic History of Air Power display, cocktail parties with pleasant music; Riverboat Cruise; Evening entertainment programs that include a military show and a 4 star General speaker; the Nationally famous Waterloo German Band (show and dancing), and dancing to the big band sounds of the "Skyliners", a truly outstanding 1940's style dance orchestra; a place to relax with friends and a cup of coffee; and, yes, lots of good food is on the menu each day including a German style buffet with FREE Busch Beer; and, all of this, believe it or not, is included in the reunion fee of \$81.00 per person.

In addition to the above, we have a number of optional tours available for those who are interested. The cost of those tours is over and above your reunion fee.

NEWS FLASH! At this writing, there is an outside chance that O.K. COULTER, 64th, may be able to convince the CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE to have the B-17 "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" on display during the reunion. If so, it will be at the Downtown Airport which is only about 5 miles from the hotel. It would be a big thrill if it comes about. If so, we will have a bus tour in conjunction with the Riverboat Cruise, to the B-17 site. We will keep our fingers crossed on this one.

Again, a reminder that there is plenty to do on your own within easy walking distance of the hotel. If you don't want to walk, then there is the Levee Line Bus to ride free around downtown St. Louis. As an example, one place you should visit is the Gateway Arch. In addition to enjoying its majestic beauty, visit its excellent Museum of Westward Expansion, then ride to the top of the Gateway Arch. Your ride will start 50 feet below ground on a train-like tram that will carry you on special tracks up through the hollow, curving legs of the Arch (your tram capsule will stay level all the way up). At the top, you will walk into an enclosed observation room, 630 feet above the ground, for a fantastic, 30 mile panoramic view of Missouri and Illinois. It is breathtaking; don't miss it!

Reunion registrations are beginning to roll in. If you have not already done so fill out the registration/survey form included in this newsletter, and send it in with your reunion fee. Remember, everyone who registers by mail before September 20th, will be eligible to win in the A-2 Leather Flying Jacket drawing during the Thursday evening program.

Hotel reservations are also beginning to come in at the Marriott Pavilion Hotel. The cut-off date to make your reservation is Sept 16th; and there are only four and one-half months left until then. So!! if you haven't made yours, do so today. Just call the Marriott Reservation number 1-800-228-9290 and tell them you wish to make a reservation as a member of the 43rd Bomb Group Reunion so your reservation will be made for the special reunion rate of \$60.00 per night. Don't delay, call today. For those who wish to write, we are including in this newsletter, a reservation card which you can fill out and mail. You should either include a credit card number or the first night's rate with your reservation.

All the hotels in the city of St. Louis are not permitted to provide Airport Shuttle Service. Therefore, upon arrival by air, you must go by Airport Limo Service (at \$6.00 per person), or, taxicab (\$20.00, regardless of the number of persons), to and from the hotel. If you ask at the Airport Limo desk, they have a special round trip rate. The airport is 15-20 miles from the hotel.

Once again, the St. Louis Reunion dates are October 8th through noon on October 14th. Scheduled activities begin on Wednesday, October 10th. On this date all the tournaments and Squadron meetings are scheduled. So plan to arrive early enough to enjoy all the activities. You won't regret it.

IRENE and I are anxiously waiting to help you enjoy your reunion visit to the beautiful Gateway City, St. Louis, Missouri. Everything is all ready for your enjoyment at a long-to-be remembered 43rd Bomb Group Reunion - the BIG 10th. We are going to have a really memorable experience!

For more detailed information on reunion activities and places of interest, PLEASE refer to your February 1990 43rd Bomb Group Newsletter.

"Meet Me in St. Louie, Louie, Meet Me at the Fair - oops!! At the Reunion."

BOB and IRENE WATSON
40 Harmon Drive, Lebanon, IL 62254
Phone 618-537-6211

FROM LLOYD

The mini-reunion in Bangor, Maine, Friday May 4th and Saturday May 5th, was a complete success. We had 74 in attendance, counting those who came in Saturday.

The plaque was dedicated Saturday morning with JAY ZEAMER, 65th, unveiling the plaque. JAY is our only living Medal of Honor recipient. The ceremony was beautiful, with the Air Force Honor Guard and the blowing of Taps, bringing a lump to the throat. BOB BUTLER gave the History of the 43rd from the beginning to the present era. (The 43rd was deactivated last month on Guam, after serving proudly almost 50 years).

Everyone in Bangor treated us royally, and DENNIS LOMBARDI, 403rd, did a bang-up job in setting up and running this reunion. We thank him and those who helped make this the success it was.

The following members, wives, and guests were present:

HEADQUARTERS

ROBERT CUTLER, ANTHONY IAMPIETRO, GEORGE and HELEN CARTER, JOE and MARY GREENWELL

63RD SQUADRON

RUSS and DOT EDWARDS, NUMCIO and HENRIETTA BONINO, GEORGE and AILEEN WHITE, CHUNKEY and CLARA MARIE WILFERT, BOB and DORIS BUTLER, HARRY DALZIEL and guests, WALTER DALZIEL and WIFE, CHARLES NADO, PAUL and MARY LEDGER

64TH SQUADRON

BOB and EILEEN GOODWIN, JOHN and GENEVIEVE ROCHE, RUSS and JANE BURNETT, BOB and EILEEN GOODWIN, CHARLES SULLIVAN, PHILLIP HOFFECKER, LUCKY STEVENS

65TH SQUADRON

BILL and MARY LOIS WILSON, LLOYD and HELEN BOREN, CHARLIE and LORRAINE STEWART, JOE and ANN HEUSTON, JIM and ANNE SHROPSHIRE, JAMES T. O'BRIEN, CHARLES KELLEY, REGINALD and LUCILLE TATRO, EDWARD and HELEN O'CONOR, VITO and HELEN DELFINO, JAY ZEAMER and daughters, JACQUILINE ZEAMER DAMON and SUSAN ZEAMER

403RD SQUADRON

GLENN MANUEL, ART and VIRGINIA DURBECK, CLIFTON and PHYLLIS WHITE, CHARLES and CLARA COLE, NEIL and MARYLES FAIRBANKS, DENNIS LOMBARDI and sister EDITH, CARL and DOROTHY AVERILL, LEWIS and MARIAN WALTMAN, BOB and MARY BYRNE

Please add the following new members to your roster:

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

STEVE HARLOW
P.O. BOX 1682
ROANOKE, VA 24008

GLENN MANUEL
RT 1 BOX 75
MONTICELLO, ME 04760

64TH SQUADRON

HAROLD F. RICHMOND
RR 1 BOX 323
AUSTIN, AR 72007

403RD SQUADRON

ABRAHAM HELLMAN
28 HORSESHOE LANE N.
COLUMBUS, NJ 08022

REHART ZAHURANEC
7670 LAMOR RD.
SHARPSVILLE, PA 16150

NATHANIAL PHILPOTT
RT 1 BOX 509
WOOLWINE, VA 24185

This is the first month that members who are not paid up for 1990 will receive no newsletter, and of course, they did not receive a roster. I dropped about 300 from the roster last year who had not paid for either 1988 or 1989. We still have almost 300 more who have not paid for 1990, however, I left them on the roster, and will mail them this newsletter and the roster only when and if they send their dues in. Starting next month, I will begin dropping these names from the computer if they have not paid. Not counting either the Life members, who are paid up, of course, and the Associate members, the majority of whom, do not pay dues, we had roughly 700 members who had paid dues for 1990 as of the date the roster was published. This figure is about 63% of our membership at that time, and this is counting the Life members. This percentage of paying members is slightly better than before we started dropping members for non-payment of dues, however, you must remember, we had reached 1534 members before we started dropping the no-pays. We have four newsletters yearly and one roster to get out, the cost has risen as we have increased the size of both the newsletter and the roster. This is our major expense, and is in addition to the normal expense of running the organization, ie: office supplies, upkeep on machines, rent, postage, mailing of newsletters and roster, etc. I donate my time, which averages 4-6 hours daily including Saturdays and even Sundays when I am getting

out the newsletters and roster. This has enabled us to concentrate on our largest problem which has always been, getting more members paying dues. Look at your roster, see if you can spot anyone you know, and get them to pay up before they are dropped. If they pay afterwards, it makes twice the work for me. I have to put them back on again and send out the roster and newsletter first class which costs us \$1.65.

While I am in a griping mood, let me ask any of you who move to please fill out a post office change of address for me. This is what it costs us if you don't. The original postage is cheap, .084 cents. When the postman returns it with your new address or for any other reason, he collects .65 cents for a newsletter from Helen, or \$1.00 for the roster. Then I have to put another .65 cents or \$1.05 on the piece of mail to re-send it. Helen keeps good track, and she gets reimbursed. This all amounts to a total cost to us of \$1.38 for a newsletter, or \$2.13 for a roster, all because someone didn't send us a change of address. Have a heart fellows.

LATE NEWS

ED TROCCIA, 65th, writes to let me know I have his telephone numbed wrong in the roster. I neved make mistakes, but I am going to let ED have his way this time. Please change your roster, his correct phone numbed is: 914-462-3483. I don't know what the big deal is, it was only off one digit. ED and JOHANNA both, have been under the weather (Colorado Springs was the only one I can remember they missed), but ED says JOHANNA has finally shed the brace she has been wearing for the last 4 months, and he is getting back to par slowly, and if the progress continues, he hopes to see us in St. Louis. ED and JOHANNA, get well, and try to make St. Louis. We miss you.

An old friend JACK FAERBER, 65th, is back in the hospital as he puts it, to get his ship back to tranquil arrangement. He expects to be back walking the beach's around Newport, Rhode Island this month.

EUGENE "DUTCH" BENEDETTI, 65th, sent, as usual, a percentage of his winnings from marathon running to the 43rd Memorial Fund along with the following: "Thus far, 1990 has been a delightful experience for me. My 75 year old legs managed to cross the finish line first on two occasions in my division; Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The National Masters Marathon championships will be held in October thereby denying my attending the Group meeting. This is one 26.2 mile event I cannot afford to miss". DUTCH, the only way I couldn't afford to miss that would be as a spectator. I get tired just thinking about it.

CLAUDE ROBINSON, 65th, was one who was kind enough to notify me of his address change. Correct address is 401 Tarrson Blvd., Lady Lake, FL 32159.

FRED EPPLEN, 63rd, writes, and I quote: "Wednesday, March 28th - yes, a month ago - I spent a most enjoyable afternoon with KENNETH A. MEAD. All of us who were in the 63rd will remember KEN, the Intelligence Officer. KEN was with the 63rd long before I got assigned in July of 1943, my guess is he came with the first group who replaced the 19th Group, but he will know and can tell all if we can persuade him to come to St. Louis.

KEN and his very nice wife, HELEN, live in a comfortable house in Southeast Denver. He was born in Ault, Colorado in 1902 - that makes him just a boy of 88 years. He looks good and gets around better than I do. Only needs glasses to read, and that's better than most of us.

The big reason for the visit was to go over KEN'S was pictures and send a lot of them off to LARRY HICKEY, the 43rd's Historical Author of the book. We picked out many and I sent them off to HICKEY.

It would be great to get KEN and HELEN to St. Louis in October '90. HELEN would enjoy it, but KEN says it might interfere with his fishing. He claims to be a great fisherman and he could try the Mississippi River while at the Reunion.

All 63rd'ers should write or call and say we need the MEAD'S in St. Louis."

GORDON BAVOR, Hdqrs., writes of his experiences as a radio operator on Glen REAM'S crew flying in "THE OLD MAN" after the 65th's March 8, 1943 mission over Gasmata where EHLERS, BRYANT, COCHRAN, and BOREN were wounded in a 13 zero gunfight. The ship was taken out of service and reconditioned, and turned over to Lt. General Ennis Whitehead for his personal use. This plane was later replaced by a B-17G # 4483555. GORDON was radio/operator on both planes, both named "THE OLD MAN". They flew about 5 days a week (Whitehead was C/O 5th AF at that time) out of Clark, Okinawa, Nichols, etc. While getting "THE OLD MAN"

ready for a flight to australia, their crew and General Kenney's crew were ordered to go back to the States and pick up two new B-17's and fly back to Clark. That was done, and he never heard whether "THE OLD MAN" went to Australia or not, but he never saw the ship again. GORDON says the new B-17G served them well.

Note from LLOYD: I never knew that we had the B-17G in the S.W. Pacific, but then I left a couple months after the first "Old Man" was shot up. I had always been under the impression that the B-17F's were the last, and were replaced by the B-24. Does anyone know how many of the B-17G's we ended up with, and how many were in Combat. Does anyone know the eventual fate of B-17F "THE OLD MAN" that was converted for General Whitehead, and was eventually replaced by B-17G "THE OLD MAN"?

GORDON BAVOR also sent a list of the original crew which flew General Whitehead in "THE OLD MAN" after it's conversion.

GLEN REAM, pilot, FRED EPPLEN, navigator, RAY CRAWFORD, co-pilot, FRED KLEINFELDER, engineer, LEONARD LAWSON, asst. engineer, GERALD HEIN, gunner, GORDON BAVOR, radio operator.

ROBERT GIPE, 65th, writes that he is hoping to make St. Louis, and especially since BOB WATSON was able to find him an RV park near-by. He hopes to see his bombardier, JOHN GYWN there. He found his name in last August's newsletter. BOB is another who wonders why we don't have more mini-reunions in various parts of the country.

We received a card from Linda Mc Larty, daughter-in-law of ROBERT A. MC LARTY, 64th, stating that both ROBERT and his wife died last summer following a car accident. ROBERT was one of the first members of our Association.

EVERETT PERKINS, 64th flight engineer on CHARLIE GIDDINGS' crew, sent in Life membership and wanted a A-2 Jacket form (we have plenty). EVERETT and GRACE enjoyed the Colorado Springs reunion, and plan on making St. Louis. GRACE was hospitalized earlier this year, but things are looking good now. EVERETT was another previous 19th BG man.

M.L. CRABB, 65th, writes that the 74th Bomb Squadron, which served in Panama and Guatamala from December 1942 - August 1945 will be holding a reunion. For further details, contact: GLENN CONWAY, 2763 Cedartown Hwy., Rome, GA 30161.

I have caps from Bossier City, Dayton, and Colorado Springs, \$4.00 each and we pay postage.

This reunion will have something new. In the past, we have spent up to \$100.00 on flimsy name tags with badges that fell out and hook pins that came loose. BOB WATSON puts on rally's and reunions, etc., for RV and Camper folks, and they have long used real nice permanent badges. Good locking clasps, nice looking, and virtually indestructible. We have ordered a supply of badges made to our specifications. A 2" x 3" badge with our Association emblem in dark blue and Silver, hot stamped on a gold badge then laminated over on the top part. The bottom contains two slots, one for the name, the other for the Squadron, or title for the Officers and Board. These will sell for \$2.00 each at the reunion, and will be a permanent badge for any reunion or get-together. They have a locking clasp in back. These may also be ordered through me, but will cost \$2.50 to cover postage. Believe me, they are pretty, and well worth the money, not to mention you have your badge for future reunions. These should be available in about a month. These will help in another way, whoever is putting on the reunion can have your badges waiting for you. For those who do not want to buy a permanent badge, we still have the name cards available.

Received a request to include the following reunion announcement in our newsletter: 22nd Bomb Group (M/H), 5th AF (WWII), Hdqrs., 2nd, 19th, 33rd, 408th Bomb Squadrons, date Oct. 15-18, 1990, Las Vegas, Nevada, 41st Annual reunion, contact - Jack Clark, Box 560967, Rockledge, FL 32956.

HOWARD S. BOOTH, 63rd, wrote to tell me he had met my brother and his wife while attending a meeting in California. He also filled in his blank spots in the roster (area code, 415, duty, pilot). I wish more of you would do this. HOWARD and ED ST. ONGE, 63rd are brothers in law, both married to sisters. He recommends reading an article in the April 1990 issue of the Air Force Magazine, page 102, on night, low level, radar bombing with the Norden Bomb Sight. He says that they trained in that technique at Langley Air Field prior to assignment to the 63rd.

PHIL HOFFECKER, 64th, who came to the Bangor ceremony with LUCKY STEVENS, 64th,

sent a nice donation, and a picture of the Memorial Plaque on the wall at the Bangor Air Port. This is the best picture I have received so far of the plaque, and if it copies ok, I will include it in this newsletter.

NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, has sent in pictures of two proposed pins he would like to see made up and offered for sale. The one with the prop would be gold plated, and cost \$10.00, the other would be die struck and enameled, cost \$5.00. He presented the color renditions of the two at the Bangor meeting. We have no idea how many would like one of these pins, so drop us a line and let us know if you are interested.

JOE GREENWELL, Hdqrs., sent me a drawing made by the Disney Studios during the war. It was an entry for a 43rd Insignia, or patch. I also don't know how this will come out in a copy, but if it is halfway clear, I will also include it here. JOE says he had a wonderful time at the Bangor reunion, and asks how we can thank the Pilot's Grill. They were outstanding. I think everyone at the reunion thought the same thing JOE. I have written them a thank you note.

For those of you who think the reunion prices keep going up, you are right, however, I just received a newsletter from an 8th AF Group who are having a reunion in New Orleans (3 days) later in October. Their hotel room is \$85.00 and parking is \$8.25 daily. Their registration fee is \$148.00 per person. This should make you feel better. The parking fees in both St. Louis and Norfolk were \$8.00 nightly, however we wound up getting them free.

The travel agency handling air reservations for us to St. Louis is Ambassador Travel. When you call, ask for the Group Department and identify yourself as an attendee at the 43rd Bomb Group Reunion. The phone numbers are 1-800-233-8263 or 206-623-0484. 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Pacific time, Monday - Friday.

On the next page, we are again printing your St. Louis Reunion Registration form. Those of you who have not yet sent it in should do so as soon as possible so we can plan ahead for the various events and meals. There is also an insert included in this mailing for your hotel registration if you haven't made it yet.

Also, included is the form to pre-order your copy of the 43rd History now being written.

EDMUND J. WINN, 7421 Farm Gate Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215, is interested in learning any details on the whereabouts or activities, now or in the past, of a pilot who flew bombers in the Pacific during WWII. His name is JOHN ANTHONY (JACK) BROWN, and he probably flew B-17's or B-24's. He crashed in the Phillipines - the crew was lost, but he survived with injuries and burns requiring hospitalization. Anyone knowing anything about this, write him at the above address.

PHIL WELCH, Hdqrs., is presenting a display case of his 5th AF patch, stripes, ribbons, medals, overseas bars, hat, collar insignia, etc., to his grandson. He writes: If anyone is interested in receiving 2 catalogs that list every Medal every ribbon, attachments, insignia, etc., they can send \$3.50 to Quincy Sales, P.O.Box 700113, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74170-0113.

About two weeks ago, BOB WATSON, underwent bi-pass surgery for the second time in about eight years. He is at home now, and recovering satisfactorily. I am sure he would appreciate hearing from some of you. BOB says everything is set for the reunion, and he expects to be in fine shape at that time. Our very best wishes for a speedy recovery BOB. You have a very good nurse in IRENE.

The best of Health and Happiness to all,

BILL and MARY LOIS WILSON
President
Drawer M
Snyder, TX 79549
Ph 915-573-6784

LLOYD and HELEN BOREN
Secty-Treasurer
102 Beechwood
Universal City, TX 78148
Ph 512-658-5978

BOB and Irene Watson
Reunion Chairpersons
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REGISTRATION/SURVEY FORM

43rd Bomb Group Assn., Inc. St. Louis Reunion 10, October 8-14, 1990
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE to 43RD BOMB GROUP REUNION

REUNION FEE: \$81.00 per person, times _____ = \$ _____ Total enclosed.

MY SQUADRON IS (circle one): Hdgrs 63rd 64th 65th 403rd

NAME: _____
(Last) (Middle) (Spouse)

ADDRESS: _____ Phone () _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

WILL TRAVEL VIA: _____ Airline, _____ Auto, _____ Rec. Veh., _____ Train

WILL ARRIVE ST. LOUIS ON (DATE): _____, AND DEPART ON (DATE): _____

DURING THE REUNION, WILL BE STAYING AT: _____ HOTEL, _____ RV PARK, _____ HOME IN AREA

IN WHICH TOURNAMENT DO YOU PLAN TO PLAY: _____ GOLF, _____ TENNIS, _____ BRIDGE, _____ NONE.

WE ARE INTERESTED IN TAKING THE FOLLOWING OPTIONAL TOURS:

_____ ANHEUSER-BUSCH BREWERY _____ ART MUSEUM _____ GRANT'S FARM
_____ CAHOKIA MOUNDS _____ SCIENCE CENTER _____ BOTANICAL GARDENS
_____ NOT INTERESTED IN ANY OPTIONAL TOURS

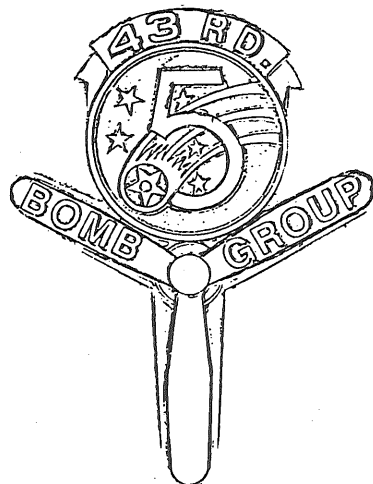
THIS WILL BE OUR (CIRCLE ONE): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 REUNION

REMARKS: _____

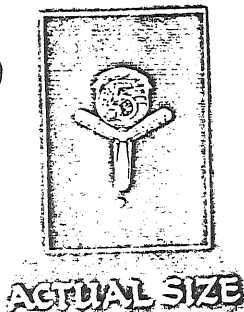
Please complete and mail this FORM and REUNION FEE to: BOB WATSON, Reunion Chairman, 40 Harmon Drive, Lebanon, IL 62254. (NOTE: Do not mail after Sept. 20, 1990).

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

GOLD PLATED PIN



COLORLED PIN



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