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43rd Bombardment Group Newsletter
36th Edition -- August 1990

FROM BILL WILSON

The newsletter this time starts off with news, but sad news. JEANNE RAPISARDI, wife of GUS RAPISARDI, 65th, passed away on Saturday 14th of April, just before Easter, at their home in Colorado Springs. RAP and I were tent mates for 18 months. Then, MAUREEN BECKSTROM, wife of KENNETH BECKSTROM, 63rd, passed away a week or two later. MAUREEN and KEN wanted to have a 43rd reunion in Albuquerque. BOB and DORIS BUTLER, 63rd, had just been out to see MAUREEN and KEN. Had a great time.

MAX AXELSEN and DALE BARR, both 403rd, have more information on the 43rd Bomb Wing deactivation. DALE is checking with SAC as to the 43rd Flag, Streamers, etc. So far not much information as to our getting these. It sure points out the need for some central place to keep our things. DALE'S health is fairly good something new has happened. His knees are hurting a little. May have to trade them in on a new pair. I wonder if there is any market for used knees? Oh yes, I almost forgot, DALE has an excellent report on the early days of the 13th Recon. 403rd, if you would like a copy, let him know.

A lot of the troops have written me with inquiries pertaining to the 43rd's General Orders which DALE was sorting by dates. I was under the impression that he had completed his job, but on checking with him, it seems that there is still a ways to go. Due to his health, I have asked him to return them to me, and I will see if I can get LLOYD to finish the assignment for us.

The 19th Bomb Group will have their reunion in Colorado Springs on October 1st thru the 6th, 1990. Hope they have as good a reunion as we had. But then they don't have HARRY and RACHEL URBAN. During their reunion, they will place a memorial at the Air Force Academy. Anyone interested may contact JAMES A. KIRACOFE, 274 Quinn Rd., West Alexandria, Ohio 45381, phone 513-839-4441, or ROBERT LEU, 3574 Wellson Ct., Simi Valley, California 93063, phone 818-703-7717.

The 20th Air Force is going to sponsor a Memorial Wall at the Air Force Academy. They need donations. JOHN JENNINGS, 6149 East Wilshire Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85257, phone 602-945-7335, is Chairman.

JACK FAERBER, 65th, one of Newport, Rhode Island's favorite sons just got through pulling a 38 day assignment at the Newport Hospital. Jack is back and going great. Talking about buying me a beer in St. Louis. Take care, see you there. (note from Lloyd -- JACK is one of our strongest supporters, In addition to being a Life Member, he has sent in a donation of \$200 which entitles him to a total of 3 life memberships. He claims he is going to outlive all of us even though he is put together with Scotch tape.)

The Bangor reunion was super. A very special thanks to Brig/Gen NICHOLAS EREMITA, Bangor Air National Guard and his fine people. Thanks to PETER D'ERRICO, manager of the Bangor International Airport, WILLIAM P. ZOIDIS and J. ANDREW GASS of the Pilots Restaurant, and last but not least, DENNIS J. LOMBARDI and his sister EDITH. Thanks again from all of us.

CHARLIE" NADO, 63rd, says HARRY DALZEIL talked him into making the Bangor Memorial. Had a great time, seeing VITO and HELEN DELFINO and BOB and MARY BYRNE, plus many more. Glad you could make it CHARLIE.

GEORGE and ANNE WEICHLIN, 65th, are looking forward to St. Louis this fall. They just learned of WILLIAM "BILL" LONG, 65th Navigator's passing. MARQUEL, BILL'S wife wrote GEORGE and ANNE. GEORGE wants to fire up his motorcycle and come see me. Better call first. I try to hide from BREEZY. He always has a job for me.

ED and JOHANNA TROCCIA, 65th, have received several requests from BRUCE HOY for more input from the troops. Please, Please, send any interesting stories, air, or maybe what your thoughts were as a GI a long way from home. What we send in may not fit, but most of it will. The book is about you. Whether you were a throttle jockey or pulling KP, its your story. The two fellows writing the book were not even hatched out then. Please help. Send your thoughts to GEORGE WHITE, 63rd, 81 Orchard Rd., Chatham, NJ 07928. He will forward same to BRUCE or LARRY. ED also reports corresponding with John H. Mitchell, an author from Springfield, MO. He is about through with the 19th Bomb Group book. Let us know, ED, how to order this book. A lot of us will want it.

The picture of BURCKY'S crew (19th), with GUS RAPISARDI as co-pilot is correct. RAP had to walk home from one mission. They bailed out over the York Peninsula. We found them three days later. Cat boats picked them up.

CARL and GINNY HUSTED, 63rd, learned of the 43rd being deactivated, and wanted to get some of the old bunch to be in the deactivation ceremony. Fellows like HARRY STALEY, KEN BECKSTROM, BOB BUTLER, JAY ZEAMER, and many more. It all happened so quick. If they had a ceremony, we were not told. CARL has reached another milestone. Class of 40-B, Randolph. Four of this class became 43rd people, KEN MC CULLAR, BOB KEATS, GENE HALLIWELL, and CARL. CARL is the only one left to make roll call.

BOB and MARY BYRNE, 403rd, report the Bangor program was great. Also lots of changes. The city is much bigger, shopping malls, etc. Something about Hancock Street being cleaned up, some kind of fast service back then. I didn't catch on to what they were talking about, but maybe you fellows who were there do.

JIM PETTUS, our 43rd C/O, reports BETTY has had surgery but is getting better fast. I assigned JIM the job of writing the foreword to our book. He sent me a copy and it is very, very good. Done in the proper spirit of one who was there. Thanks very much JIM for a job well done. JIM advised me that Col. ELLIS BROWN lives in St. Louis, so I have invited him to be a special guest at our reunion in St. Louis. Col. BROWN was C/O of that other outfit ... the 90th Bomb Group.

JOHN and GENEVIEVE ROCHE, 64th, very special people, had fun in Bangor. Were sorry about the rain on Saturday, but couldn't help that. Gosh, JOHN, I thought that was the best part. BREEZY, HELEN, MARY LOIS, and I hadn't seen it rain in years. The ROCHE'S Sunday night dinner (that's supper) at the Pilots Grill, met BILL ZODIAS, the owner, and thanked him for the excellent meal he served us Saturday noon. A week later they went to Stafford Springs, CT for a get together at the home of RAY and HAZEL MATTESEN. BILL SCHRIEVER and wife ALAND EMERICA CELLENNE came by. The four couples, all 64th, had another big weekend. See you in St. Louis. Sometimes I wonder how many of our people would ever have known the whereabouts of old friends and comrades if it hadn't been for the dedicated work over these 11 years by BOB BUTLER, LLOYD BOREN, and GEORGE WHITE.

JOE and ANN HEUSTON, 65th, enjoyed the Bangor get together. Also sent in a clipping from the 25th May, 1990 Daily Gazette of Taunton, Mass. The article is from Jakarta, Indonesia, and reports the finding of three US war planes at a remote Indonesia island, Blak Island, in the eastern most province of Irian Java. About 2100 miles northeast of Jakarta. Could be some of the 19th Bomb Group's B-17's, C or D models. Maybe some of our B-24's. If anyone hears anything let me know. Thanks JOE, interesting report.

HERB and MILDRED ANDRESS, 403rd, sent in a story on a restored B-24J, "ALL AMERICAN". This is the only fully restored B-24 around according to Collings Foundation of Stowe, Maine. They reported 14 of the 18,000 B-24's built are still flying. Also say over half of all B-24's built were lost in combat. Collings Foundation is a non profit foundation and needs donation's to pay for the aircraft. The pictures are beautiful. HERB and MILDRED, recall great times at Colorado Springs reunion. Especially being with old buddy JOE FIDONE, 403rd. Hope St. Louis will be as good. IT WILL!!

Word comes from our "Legal Eagle", the Honorable MAXWELL E. OSBORN, 65th. The title of our book might be "THE 43RD BOMB GROUP -- PACIFIC WAR". Should have a broad appeal. Sell much better to outsiders. "KEN'S MEN" is lost on all but us. Good thoughts, MAX. My report on "AIR POWER" has MAX wondering where you can get

a copy. Try LARRY HICKEY. He should know.

HARRY STALEY, 63rd, is a hell of a lot smarter than me. HARRY, the troops want to know where they can get a copy of the JACQUES COUSTEAU video tape. Let me know and I will put the address in the newsletter.

ANDY ANDERSON, 64th, missed Colorado Springs. His wife MARCELLA was sick. She passed away 27th of October 1989. ANDY has got his act together and is looking forward to St. Louis. He still works for the State of California, might check it to em in another couple of years. Oh yes, he also sent in Life Membership.

JOHN "MATT" and HARRIET PICKERING, 64th, called the other evening, they had company and got to talking about B-24's. Called me to see if I knew what model was the last the 43rd got for combat. Was it a B-24, D, E, F, G, or what? Let MATT know, and also me. Someone else may call me from Norfolk, VA.

The Fifth Air Force Foundation is having its Biannual meeting October 18th, 1990 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Maybe some of you will be able to attend.

FRED and MAURINE MC ALISTER, Hdqrs., sent a copy of the Carswell Sentinel - Col. JULIAN B. HALL, current C/O of the 43rd Bomb Wing, Anderson Air Force Base, Guam, will assume command of the 7th Bomb Wing at Carswell. Also excellent story on the "Arc Light Memorial" at Anderson AFB. The center piece is "OLD 100", a B-52D with over 5000 combat hours over Vietnam. Then there is a plaque with the names of the 43rd air crew lost in Vietnam. COL. HALL expanded the memorial to honor the Ammo Troops, Maintainers, and all others that kept the B-52's flying during the conflict.

JOE HOWARD, 64th, sent me a copy of a letter to BRUCE HOY. JOE suggested that BRUCE might contact RAY MULLIS, RAAF Liaison Officer, who served with the 64th in '42 and '43. JOE and ALICE visited RAY and his family in Sydney in 1968. JOE also points out the time lag and other delays in getting information to BRUCE and LARRY. Maybe we can get it working better. LARRY has other work to do, and so does BRUCE, he is on a 30 day trip to New Guinea right now to check another found WWII air craft.

Lt./Gen. ROBERT N. SMITH, 65th, needs help, wants information of two missions flown 15th and 16th April 1943. the 16th, April mission was a recon mission. These flights were covered by operations report #373 and 374, maybe some photos of the recon mission. Target area Wewak Kairiru Island. LARRY HICKEY and DALE BARR have my print out of old records. Should have one sent back soon and will check this out. Any one with any information please let BOB know. BOB started out with the 43rd, but in early days in Australia, the B-25 bunch borrowed him a time or two and forgot to return him. Remembers JOSH BARNES, 65th, CARL HUSTED, 63rd, and many others. I have asked BOB to come to St. Louis. Says he might. JOSH, you and some of the others might call or write BOB. Be fun to have him.

JOE and SALLY SNYDER, 403rd, suggests a memorial service in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. 101 Memorial Drive, St. Louis. A number of our departed are buried there. One group out of the 403rd that were lost out of Clark Field on 9th March 1945. Air Craft # 44-41672, pilot PAUL W. WITTENBERGER; co-pilot CLARENCE H. MILLER; navigator WILLIS C. BUNDY; engineer DALE G. SWONGER; and radio operator SARAFIN URBANSKI. Their air craft was found, I think, in 1952, and they were buried 15th April 1953.

Col. GEORGE WHITE, 63rd, ex-C/O, ex-ball turret operator, ex-exec. of major insurance company, also a New Jersey Yankee, finds his new duty assignment a bit tough. Can't seem to get the troops to answer BRUCE HOY and LARRY HICKEY'S questions so we can get on with the book. Please check back on the questions in old news letters. Maybe you can answer some of the questions. GEORGE will not flunk you if you fail to answer them all. Just one will be a big help. Send it to GEORGE and he will get it off to the right place. I wouldn't want anyone to know it but it was great fun for MARY LOIS and me to be with GEORGE and AILEEN in Bangor for the dedication.

BRUCE HOY helps with the history. To start with, JOSEPH LEONARD ROFF was not a member of the 19th Bomb Group, so if he was a bombardier on a B-17, he must have been in the 43rd. BRUCE wants DAN CROMER to keep looking for his records of early days of the 65th. Come on DAN, you have them some place.

BRUCE wants to get letters from the following right away:
W.M. ANDERSON, M.R. "MICKEY" ANDRADE, 65TH, PAUL L. BARBUS, 64TH, MILTON K. BASS, 65TH, WALTER E. BILL, 403RD, J.F. "JACK" CAPERTON, 65TH, ED FEILLE, 65TH, ARTHUR A. FLETCHER, 65TH, LARRY D. HOLMES, 63RD, MARSHALL E. NELSON, 64TH, EVERETT P.

PERKINS, JR., 64TH, DONALD PITTENGER, 403RD, RAYMOND OUILLEN, 403RD, VERNON H. REEVES, 64TH, and LEWIS H. WALTMAN, 403RD. Get on the ball fellows. BRUCE needs to hear from you. Note!! At least two of the above flew with DUTCH EHLERS, DOC BRYANT, BREEZY BOREN and ME. BILL BOLY and MICKEY ANDRADE. MICKEY ANDRADE passed away a couple years ago in Buffalo, NY. In regards one other on the list, W.M. ANDERSON, our records do not show anyone by that name.

TOM FITZGERALD, 166 Beaumont Street, Hamilton, NSW 2303, a member of 24th Squadron Association Royal Australian Air Force, writes to LARRY HICKEY about their days with the 43rd BG. Tells of their first B-24's, and 43rd people flying with then on their first missions. Did not like the press reports on what the Yanks were doing. Feels very strongly that the Aussies also did their bit. TOM, you will get no flack from the 43rd. We all love the Aussies. TOM also reports 28th November 1944, on a return flight from Rabaul, Flight/Lt. Bourt had a life raft escape and wrap around the tail section of his B-24. With great skill, he was able to make the air strip at Cape Gloucester. Not to outdo your report TOM but our crew, (DUTCH EHLERS), had the same thing happen 5th November 1942, in a B-17E, over the Owen Stanley mountains NW of Port Moresby in route to Salamau Harbor. We continued on to the target, bombed the ship (our target), fought off 12 Jap fighters, and were finally saved by P-38's. We then had to climb up to 15,000 feet to cross the Owen Stanley's and all the time the aircraft was climbing and stalling. A hell of a ride. But we made it back to 7 mile.

BOB and DORIS BUTLER, 63rd, were in Bangor. BOB gave the history of the 43rd at the Memorial Service. He does this extremely well. Adds a lot to these get togethers. Somehow, BOB and DORIS are the top dogs. This is their thing, and we all enjoyed it with them. Thanks to both of you for all your work over the years

DOUG and ILIENE LEAMAN, 65th, got a letter from JOEL GRIFFIN, 403rd, telling him KEN BEILER, son of BURGESS BEILER, 64th, sent him a picture of "THE TAXPAYERS PRIDE". This is the plane they got shot down in, I think. DOUG sent BRUCE HOY a lot of stuff. Good boy. Also reports a new job. He is gate man at Target Warehouse from 4:00 AM to noon, in Indianapolis, IN. Likes the new hours. Afternoons can write to his friends. Should stay busy, he has a lot of friends.

JOEL GRIFFIN, 403rd, reports he called JOSE HOLGUIN, 65th, on 25th June, the 47th anniversary of their getting shot down, two different planes. Only one survivor in each aircraft. Both became P.O.W's. Happy anniversary fellows.

PERCY ALEXANDER reports another reunion of the 13th Recon. TALBOT and WAUNETA GARNER had the reunion at their house in Kaufman, TX. Those that attended along with their wives are TED BIBY & CHUCK MARVEL from Kansas, PERCY ALEXANDER & ART HANE from Oklahoma, JAKE BONDS, THOMAS BEALL, WILLIAM "BUCK" AUSTIN, THOMAS JONES, RAYMOND ETTER, and WARREN MAUPIN all from Texas. "BUCK" AUSTIN made his first 13 recon meeting. Was glad to find you fellows. He has 151 of you charged out with blankets from Fort Dix. Thinks you may have taken then aboard the Argentina. Hay, fellows, get those blankets back to "BUCK". He is standing a little short. Maybe 151 blankets short.

The 90th Air Fueling Squadron is holding a 35th year reunion 9th to 12th November in San Francisco and Merced, California. Special ceremony at Castle Air Force Base. Contact Tony Rourke, 7726 Eichler Drive, Houston, TX 77036, (713)771-5120.

GEORGE and ANNE WEICHLEIN, 65th, like the new badge. Ordered one for each. Some others have already ordered these from LLOYD. They are permanent badges for the reunions. Very nice looking, and very practical. They will be \$2.00 each at the reunions, but you can order one or two now for \$2.50 each. They will be sent with your name and squadron inserted. GEORGE and ANNE will be in St. Louis.

Martha Byrd needs help. She wrote a biography of CLAIRE CHENNAULT a few years back, "CHENNAULT, GIVING WINGS TO THE TIGER". Martha is now writing a biography of Brig/Gen. KENNETH N. WALKER, Fifth Bomber Command C/O. She wants any information you might have on him. Write: Martha Byrd, P.O. Box 1659, Davidson, NC 28036, or phone 704-892-1175.

A.M. and NELL DAVID, 65th, sent in a note. NELL says DAVE is having a rough time of it, health wise. Enjoys the newsletters and sure would like to hear from some of you. Hang in there DAVE. Mail is coming.

JIM MURPHY, 63rd, reports the passing of his wife, MARY JANE on the 30th of June 1990. How very sad. Just the other day I talked to them about getting the storm damaged house fixed. We all send our love, JIM. Tough go. God Bless.

THE SHERMAN DEMOCRAT, (Texas), in their June 19th edition, carried a story of a fellow 43rd member H.T. "ACE" HASTINGS, 64th, donating a 9ft marble statue of a '30 and '40 era pilot to be placed at the Grayson County Airport. We 43rd people seem to be still getting the job done. Good on you, ACE. Oh yes, the dedication is Saturday the 13th of October. If you are not in St. Louis, try Sherman. ACE is expecting you.

CLARENCE "KELLY" and ELEANOR O'CONNER, 63rd, like the new name tags. Got theirs for the St. Louis reunion. Missed Bangor, had a family reunion going on. Eight of their very own kids. Air Force sons from Japan and Spain. It was a great event. KELLY recalls 5th August, 1943, he and a Lt. GYLER flew General Whitehead from Moresby to Townsville in a B-17E, "MUSTANG", not "THE OLD MAN". He wonders if anyone knows anything about Lt. GYLER?

CHARLIE and VALERIA MARVEL, 403rd, sent in a good report. It seems as though they have been on a long trip to South Africa. Sounds like they saw it all. Also sent in a clipping from Grand Island paper, (he was there for his 50th High School reunion), on finding a B-17 in New Guinea. A Sgt. JOE CARTER was one of the crew members. Aircraft went down 25th April 1942. Flight was made by the 30th Squadron, 19th Bomb Group.

A new member, NATHANIEL C. PHILPOTT, 403rd, gunner on JACK K. MINNIERE'S crew, had a mini reunion in Winter Park, FL with his old crew. JACK MINNIERE, pilot, ROBERT BURNS, bombardier, REHART ZAHURANEC, radio operator. LLOYD MORGAN could not make it. They hope to be in St. Louis. We will see you fellows there NAT.

JACK and CELESTE CAPERTON, 65th, is in charge of the tennis meet in St. Louis. LLOYD "BREEZY" BOREN and BOB "RHETT" BUTLER are his all star team. Needs more players. Come on fellows, don't be bashful. His all star team couldn't beat their way out of a wet paper bag. I mean they are easy, real easy!!. JACK also points out an error in the February newsletter page 14. Mission on 3rd March 1943 was not to Lae, but part of the Bismarck Sea Battle.

ELLIOTT DRESDON, was in the 64th, not the 403rd. Just one more goof for me.

WALLACE and ANN MUNSON, 64th, sends thanks for getting their crew back together. Out of a 10 man crew, one could not be located, T.J. LAMORGE, flight engineer. They think he stayed in the service, any help? Also sent LARRY HICKEY several names for our book.

DON GRAHAM, 65th, sent in money for extra postage. Seems he has been in the hospital, and moving has made it hard for BREEZY to keep up with DON, but he got it done. DON had dinner with CHARLIE BELLOWS, 65th, not long ago. He wants to send JIM and BERT HARCROW, 65th, a big hello. I guess, to me, DON GRAHAM has changed as little as any of us. Would know him anywhere. RED HANLON was another that just didn't change. Get well DON.

FRANK and LYNN WAYSSE, 64th, are moving to Florida and will send in a new address shortly. Will be in St. Louis for the reunion and stay in touch with his crew. Last August, they met with EMIL and SHIRLEY LANGE in Albany, NY. Then with JOE and HELEN JANCOSKO in Boynton Beach, FL. Get em all headed for St. Louis, FRANK.

JIM and NANCY MARTIN, 63rd, report the passing of TONY KIMISH, 63rd, 18th October 1989. We will all miss TONY. Thanks JIM for letting us know.

WILLIAM "RED" ALMOND, 64th, reports M/Sgt. PETER CULP, line chief, 65th, in 1943 and early 1944 has passed away. No time given. His wife lives at 234 Edge Ave., Valparaiso, FL 32580.

CHUNKY and CLARA MARIE WILFERT, 63rd, drove from Crowley, LA to Bangor, Maine stopping off to see 43rd people along the way. It was quite a trip. One of the high points was W. Hartford, CT, and FATHER SHEA. CHUNKY says the "COACH" looks good and asked about all of us. Hopes to get to see us, but in the meantime, he still keeps us in his prayers. Thanks WILFERTS for the good report.

FINAL REUNION UP-DATE FROM ST. LOUIS
by BOB and IRENE WATSON, Chairmen

This will be the last information released by the "Newsletter" prior to the start of the Reunion at the Marriott Pavilion Hotel (downtown) in St. Louis, October 7-14, 1990. Reunion set-up and registration will be on Monday and Tuesday, October 8 & 9, and reunion program activities will start on Wednesday, October 10 with the Golf, Tennis, and Bridge Tournaments during the day, and a

cocktail party, ladies program, and Squadron meetings during the evening.

To re-cap, the reunion program is scheduled as follows:

Mon-Tues, Oct 8-9: Set-up and registration.

Wed, Oct 10; am/pm: Registration, Golf, Tennis and Bridge Tournaments, Optional tours. **Evening:** Cash Bar Cocktail Party (with/live music), followed by Squadron meetings and Ladies program.

Thurs, Oct 11: Full breakfast, registration, lunch on your own, optional tours all day. **Evening:** Cash bar cocktail party with Strolling Ragtime Band, Pay-as-you-go dinner; speaker, CINC MAC & US Transportation Command, MAC Presentation Team Show, A-2 Jacket drawing and awards presentation.

Fri, Oct 12: Breakfast on your own, registration, Mississippi Riverboat Cruise, lunch on your own, optional tours. **Evening:** Cash bar cocktail party, German Buffet Dinner and the nationally famous Waterloo German Band (dancing, music and show).

Sat, Oct 13: Continental breakfast, registration till noon, Group Meeting, lunch on your own, 1 hour stage program - "Mac-Arthur, A Controversial War Hero" (an impersonation), optional tours. **Evening:** Cash Bar Cocktail Party (with live music), Banquet Style Dinner followed by dancing to the Big Band Sounds Skyliner's Orchestra.

Sun, Oct 14: Memorial service, followed by a big farewell Sunday Brunch.

In addition to the above, we will have, daily, a fantastic History of Airpower display presented by **MIKE GUYERMAN**, 64th, in the Memorabilia Room. Also in the Memorabilia Room, coffee will be available daily, you will have a place to sit and chat with friends and new acquaintances, lots of memorabilia to look at, and Reunion souvenir caps will be for sale there by our master cap salesman, **DON BAKER**, 65th.

If any of you reading this have not yet made your arrangements to attend, I suggest you do so without further delay because we are going to have a marvelous time in St. Louis. A nice feature of our visit here is that all scheduled reunion activities, with the exception of the Mississippi Riverboat Tour, take place in the hotel -- no hassles going from one place to another.

When finalizing your plans to attend, here are some things to keep in mind:

[1] Call 1-800-228-9290 to make your "reunion" hotel reservation. The cut-off date for the special \$60.00 per day rate is September 14, 1990. Be sure to mention you are attending the 43rd Bomb Group Reunion.

[2] All registered hotel guests will have free parking available in the hotel garage. However, if your vehicle is over 6'2" in height, you will have to park about 2 blocks south of the hotel in the Busch Stadium open air lot, at your own cost.

[3] If you need an RV Park, call the St. Louis downtown RV Park (very nice - about \$25/day) Phone # 314-241-3330 to make your reservation. It is about one mile or so from the hotel.

[4] Send in your pre-registration form and \$81.00 per person reunion fee by September 20, 1990 to be eligible for the A-2 Jacket drawing. Only those who pre-register will be eligible for the drawing.

[5] There is no courtesy transportation between any of the downtown hotels and the airport (its about 15 miles from the airport to the hotel). Airport limo and taxi service is available at both ends. The latest info on fares is: Limo- \$6.00/person, taxi- \$20.00 one way for one to five people (not \$20.00 per person).

[6] There are lots of restaurants within easy walking distance of the hotel.

[7] There are many places of interest to tour that are within easy walking distance of the hotel, and if you don't wish to walk, you can ride on the free Levee Line Bus that stops across the street from the hotel. It will take you to all the places of interest downtown.

[8] We will also have a tour company available for optional tours to places

of interest that are away from the downtown area.

[9] For complete details on the reunion, its activities and things to do and see in St. Louis, please re-read the reunion write-up in the February "Newsletter".

We have a great program planned for your enjoyment, so; don't delay any further: make the necessary reservations. Then pack your bags and meet us in St. Louis for the "Big 10th" reunion of the 43rd Bomb Group.

BOB and IRENE WATSON

40 Harmon Drive
Lebanon, IL 62254
Phone: 618-537-6211

FROM LLOYD

I have had a couple letters from some members who are paid up two or three years in advance, and receive their mail marked PD-90. This also shows on the roster. I know this is confusing, but the program on the computer is set up to pay attention, only, to the current years dues. In other words, if you are paid thru 1993, your record indicates that, but any printout is going to show you paid for the current year. Don't worry, next year it will show you PD-91, etc. One of these days, if I ever get caught up, I will alter the program and change that part.

All members who have not paid for 1990 have been dropped from the computer. We have about 950 members left. Of these, about 200 are either Life members, or Associate members who, with the exception of about 10-15, do not pay dues. This is nothing new. In the past we have always had less than half pay dues. Of course, now that we are no longer carrying the non-payers, we should stay on a fairly level income plateau. We have been quite fortunate in having some members who have always paid more than their share. We have been able to realize a small profit from the reunion caps, and all of our money is drawing interest. The CD for the Life members is drawing 8%, and is automatically paid into the General fund checking account each year, and that fund draws 6%. This is essentially the way we have managed to build the treasury over the past years.

We are now on an annual basis, and the IRS has approved the change from a fiscal year.

The caps this year will be something else - several fellows wrote in and suggested using the 5th AF patch and that's what we will have, in full color, on a silver golf cap. Of course, they will also have 43rd BOMB GROUP ASSN. & 10th REUNION - ST. LOUIS. In addition, BOB WATSON has insisted on the famous St. Louis Arch, and I think I have found a way to do it. You are going to like this one.

Heard from MARCIA BRENNEMAN, Assoc. Seems several people have tried to get in touch with her about her book, "WALTER, AN AIRMAN'S LIFE", and I have her phone number wrong in the roster. The correct number is 533-2755. Sorry MARCIA.

WALTER BLUNK, 64th Crew chief, reports in, saying his absence from the reunion is due to wife MARY having a serious health problem. I am sure they would appreciate hearing from some of you.

Those of you who have been trying to find Jacques Cousteau's Book, "NEW GUINEA JOURNAL", might drop a line to JACK FAERBER, 65th. He secured a copy just recently. JACK has been in the hospital again just recently, and it sounds like they keep a bed reserved for him. Fool them JACK, do us all a favor and don't show up there anymore.

AL NOVELLI, Hdqrs., called yesterday. He had just found his "Short Snorter" after all this time. Says DALE BARR is on it in addition to 30-40 more signatures. Will bring it to a reunion. Can't make this one, he is still in a wheel chair, but hopes to make the next one. AL applied, not too long ago for the Philippine Liberation Medal, and, along with others who applied, will be presented the medal at the Philippine Embassy in New York September 8th, 1990. If you were based in the Philippines, you might want to drop AL a line and find out how to go about applying.

ELLIOTT DRESDEN, (note - 64th, not 403rd), called and asked me to call attention to his correct squadron, and correct phone number 619-444-5589. Earlier this

year, ELLIOTT called and said he had talked to a friend, WALTER P. CHRISTENSEN, of Groveland, CA, and learned that WALTER had been able to locate quite a bit of film footage in the National Archives in Washington DC on his own Bomb Group. WALTER was kind enough to call and let me know that he would be going to Washington shortly and would be happy to see what he could find on the 43rd.

I received a letter the first of this month from WALTER stating that both he, and wife DONNA had searched the files and only came up with two specific references to the 43rd. Both are training films. One made Sept 9th to Oct 8th, 1945 shows life at the base at Owi. The second, made June 20, 1945, shows a practice ditching. The titles are 18 CS 2516 and 18 CS 4114. These were the only ones they could find cross referenced to the 43rd. However, there may be other 5th AF titles which could have combat footage of the 43rd.

WALTER suggested that we have someone in the San Bernardino Area go to Norton AFB and visit the Motion Picture and Sound bldg. that is located on the far Northeast corner of the base. They may have some records. He has found that the Norton records are much better indexed and easier to use than the ones at the National Archives. WALTER feels that we should make an attempt at Norton as soon as possible, before the records disappear for good. He has had quite a few films transferred to video for his group. This is rather an expensive operation, but the service is available through the National Archives if we should find something worth the effort. Any of you guys in the San Bernardino area, give us a hand.

M.L. "SHAD" SHADDOX, 64th, who still works part time for BROWN & ROOT, writing specifications and standards for mechanical equipment, stopped off in San Antonio for the first stop on a long trip in their motor home. Called, and came by for a brief visit at our office (which is gradually taking on the appearance of a museum). They started out from Houston, next stop Ft. Stockton, TX (hi-school grad class '39), then to Las Cruces, NM (old friends of NAOMI'S), then to Tuscon, AZ (visit WALLACE MUNSON, radio/oper on his crew), then on the Los Angeles (visit with son) then on to Merced, CA (visit his co-pilot, GUS DRUMM) next, Washington State (visit old Hi-School classmates) then down through Yellowstone to Denver, CO (visit daughter) and back home just in time to take off again for the St. Louis reunion. Two and a half months. That's a long swing, SHAD.

Another visitor, MARCUS CARRELL, 65th, from Houston stopped by a short time ago. We had talked several times on the phone, but this was his first trip to San Antonio in some time. MARCUS keeps busy with a rather interesting job (or hobby). He holds a commission in the Coast Guard, and patrols some of the inland waterways. He has been cited for saving two lives.

NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd, wanted to get the pins (pictures later) made up, but I felt we shouldn't invest any more money at this time. The pins will be beautiful. The 5th AF pin in enamel and brass will sell for 5.00 and the gold plated prop pin will sell for 10.00. NEIL offered to donate the setup charge (350) and put up all the money, sending the pins to me where you may order them. He will be reimbursed from the proceeds with the difference being a donation to the Group. In addition, for his past help on several projects, we owe NEIL a very big THANK YOU. (The pins should be available in time for the reunion, and only 175 of each have been ordered).

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NAMES TO YOUR ROSTER

ASSOC.	63RD	64TH	63RD
<u>JUDY M. CULP</u>	<u>ROBERT T. PLOWMAN</u>	<u>CLINTON S. SPURGEON</u>	<u>WILLIAM A. SMETTS</u>
234 EDGE AVE.	4311 SARONG	1814 MASON RD.	351 WALNUT LANE
VALPRISO, FL 32580	HOUSTON, TX 77096	BURLINGTON, IA 52601	MASON, OH 45040

Let me add another reminder to get your reservations, both hotel and to Bob, in as quickly as possible. You have a cutoff date at the hotel of September 14th, and registration for the reunion with Bob, September 20th. You may register for the reunion when you arrive, but you will not be eligible for the A-2 jacket drawing. So, get them in early. Bob, especially, needs to know how many are going to show up since the Mississippi River Cruise is included in your registration along with quite a number of meals, and he must have an idea of how many to order for.

The permanent reunion badges are pictured here and whether you attend this years reunion or a future reunion, they are very practical and reasonable. They have a locking pin on the back and are heavy plastic, in gold, with dark blue and silver imprints. Price \$2.00 at the reunion or \$2.50 each by mail. \$5.00 for 2.

HERB TOTTEN, Hdqrs., our accountant until his retirement, is in poor health and I know would like to hear from some of you. He and wife DONNA have both had a rough time since selling their business. HERB has spent many an hour on our behalf, and you would have a hard time finding a man more dedicated to the 43rd.

HENRY "HANK" DAY, 64th of Corvallis, Oregon, along with a check for life membership, sends a report of why he did not make Colorado Springs and will not make St. Louis. The next time you think you have problems, read this: HANK reports: On Feb 7, 1989, he was traveling South in his Plymouth S/W when he had a head-on collision with another car traveling North. It took two hours to cut him out of his station wagon. Injuries; right hip bone knocked out of its socket. The cheek bones from the outside corner of the left eye around to the middle of the eye were crushed. Five ribs broken, sixth cracked. Punctured left lung. bones in back of left hand broken. Left thigh bone shattered into multiple pieces. Left knee cap broken into 4 pieces. TREATMENT: Left cheek almost identical to right cheek. Right hip replaced with steel ball & plastic socket. Lungs drained & healed. Ribs healed. Left hand healed. Left thigh, steel ball & shaft from hip to two inches above knee, all bone fragments removed, cleaned, reassembled & wired in place around the steel shaft. Plastic socket screwed into pelvic bone. Left knee cap wire & nailed together in repair. Will be on canes or crutches until age 110. They do make em tough in the 43rd. All the best HANK.

ED TROCCIA, 65th, who is helping BRUCE HOY with the 65th B-17 portion, wrote WILLIE WILSON that he had not had any answers to his letters to BILL BOLY, DUTCH EHLERS, DOC BRYANT, GEORGE SHAKO, and others. 65th, lets get on the ball. You guys who were in B-17's, BRUCE is in charge of that era. Send your experiences to ED TROCCIA, who in turn, will forward them to GEORGE WHITE. This is a very important project for the entire GROUP.

ARRON BURLESON, 65th, is the Air Force Association State President for Oklahoma.

If you are looking for someone, I have been advised that the National Personnel Record Center is located at 3700 Page Blvd. in St. Louis, MO 63102.

HERBERT PFLUEGER, 63rd, writes that his wife BONNIE had open heart surgery with six by-passes and other complications. She is recovering satisfactorily. They were at the reunion in Colorado Springs. This happened in February. Get well BONNIE, hope to see you in St. Louis.

We are including another questionnaire from LARRY HICKEY, and everyone would appreciate any answers you can give him. In addition to the questionnaire, LARRY has sent me the following update on the Squadron Paintings:

In conjunction with the publication of 43rd History (see Questionnaire elsewhere in newsletter), four full-color, large-size paintings by top aviation artist Steve Ferguson, have been commissioned by the publisher. Two of the four paintings will be B-17s and the other two will be B-24s. The Squadrons and subjects are: 63rd - Shipping attack on night of Aug. 10/11, 1945 (a 63rd crew has offered to sponsor this painting, but no deposit has yet been received): 64th - most important mission of C.O. Ken McCullar (date and incident to be determined). This painting has been sponsored, The 65th painting, ZEAMER/SARNOSKI MOH, 16 June 1943, has been finished and delivered to the sponsor. The 403rd painting will depict the daylight attack on Balikpapan, Borneo, on Oct 10, 1944.

The publisher would be willing to have these published in a limited edition as Fine Art Prints if there is sufficient interest within the Association. LARRY HICKEY will provide details on this at the St. Louis reunion.

Stay well. We will meet you in St. Louis,

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

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

BOB and IRENE WATSON
Reunion Chairpersons
40 Harmon Dr.
Lebanon, IL 62254
Ph 618-537-6211

43RD BOMB GROUP HISTORY PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE 8/90

43rd History co-authors LARRY HICKEY and BRUCE HOY want to thank all of you who responded to the last questionnaire; your pre-publication orders to help support this very costly publishing project are also appreciated. We still have many questions which are being designed now. We also need your personal accounts of camp life, living conditions, and you most interesting, exciting or important

combat missions. So, if you have information, photos or diaries, please sit down now and send it to us. 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.

To update you on the status of the history, JIM PETTUS has completed an extensive preface for the book, and copies of print-outs for all the 43rd Group historical reels from the USAF archives have been received. Outlines of the text are underway to pin point where more research needs to be done. We are selecting and putting together the reference materials for the artist who will paint with photographic accuracy the 48 color aircraft profiles, and the first of four Squadron paintings - ZEAMER/SARNOSKI Medal of Honor, June 16, 1943, has been finished, photographed for the book, and delivered to the sponsor. The second painting - 403rd Squadron attacking Balikpapan, Borneo, October 10, 1944 - is currently being researched and will be done next. If anyone can provide photos, reference materials or personal recollections of that mission your input would be appreciated. The 64th Squadron painting has been designated to be the most exciting, interesting or important mission flown by Maj. KEN MCCULLAR, while Sqd. C.O. Can anyone provide any suggestions for what that mission should be? Skip bombing perhaps? Send your information and suggestions directly to LARRY HICKEY. No final decision has yet been made for a title. I'd like to hear more suggestions from the unit membership for a really dynamite title to the Group history. All ideas are welcome. Send them directly to LARRY HICKEY.

GENERAL

1. We still have had little 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 or know who does.
2. We still need copies of diaries, flight logs, narratives for major decorations such as Silver Stars, Purple Hearts, DFC, DSC, etc. Please help us focus on the important personal experiences which add so much to a history such as this.
3. Can anyone provide squadron, tail numbers, ground crew names for the 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.
4. 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.
5. 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?
6. 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 B-24? Does anyone know anything about a B-24 named "Sitting Pretty"?
7. 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) & stories of the missions flown. Can anyone help? Need photos of black B-24 #127 nicknamed "Boots".
8. We also want to do a color profile of the B-24 nicknamed "Queen of Hearts" and need similar info. Was this an all-black aircraft or did it carry the green camouflage?
9. We need nicknames and photos of 63rd B-24s not mentioned above.

64TH SQUADRON

10. 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).
11. Was diagonal white band first applied to stabilizers of the 64th B-24s in August of 1943? Were white cowlings painted on some planes at the same time? When were red & white tail stripes 1st applied to uncamouflaged B-24 tails?

12. By whom, when and where was the 64th "Indian boy with a telescope riding a bomb" insignia first designed?
13. Can anyone provide full nose-to-tail photos of these B-24s: "HEAVENLY BODY", "IT AIN'T SO FUNNY", "LAST HORIZON", "MICHIGAN", "MABEL'S LABELS", or "THE RECORD BREAKERS"? Need nose art photo of "Lovely Annette".

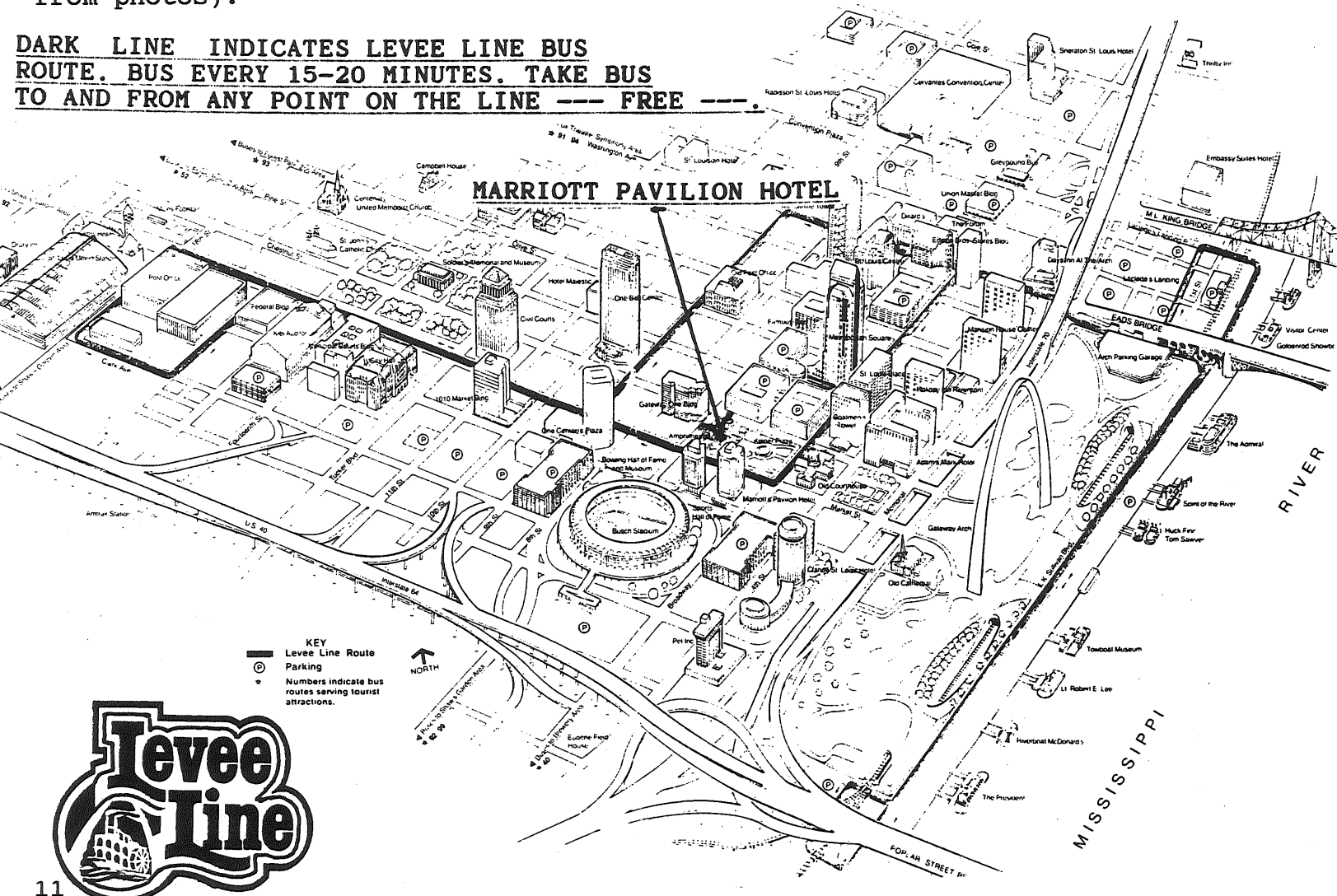
65TH SQUADRON

14. Need color details, crew chief names, and artwork color details for the following B-24s: "JUNGLE QUEEN", "KENTUCKY VIRGIN" (later SURE POP), "TOW 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. NG; need color details, service dates, and tail number of B-24 "QUEEN OF THE CLOUDS".
15. Need above info plus serial #s of B-24s "SHIRLEY 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).
16. 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.
17. Target for tonight #060. Need regular pilot, if any, and crew chief's name as well as color artwork details and plane history.
18. Need nicknames and info on any other 65th B-24s not listed above.
19. When and at what base was name "KEN'S MEN" first applied to pilot's side of 65th SQ B-24 noses?
20. When and where was the tail B-24 rudder striping 1st applied on 65th B-24s?

403RD SQUADRON

21. We have virtually no identification of nicknames or nose art on 403rd B-24s. Can anyone supply same?
22. Early 403rd SQ B-24s used a white front tip on top of the stabilizers. We think this first applied about August, 1943. Can anyone confirm this?
23. The following 403rd SQ B-24 nicknames are known: "ACE O' SPADES", "FLAMING' 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", "STUGOTTS 1ST*", "TAILSKID TOLLIE", "MILLION \$ BABY" (I and 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 above with *, also need serial number".
24. 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).

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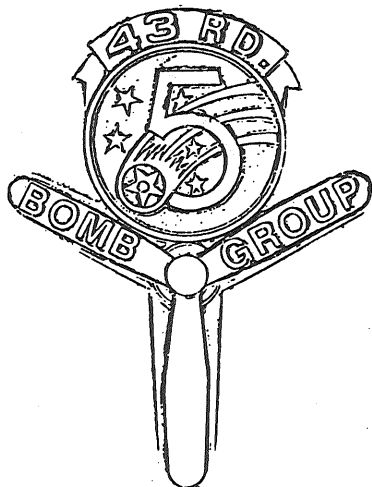
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REMARKS: _____

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!!

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