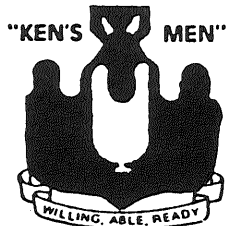


# FORTY THIRD BOMB GROUP ASSN. INC.

## OFFICERS

Bill Wilson, Pres.	65th
Dale Barr, Vice Pres.	403rd
Lloyd Boren, Secty. Treas	65th
PAST PRESIDENTS	
Bob Butler	63rd
George White	63rd



Hdqs & Hdqs Sqdn

## Directors

Max Axelsen	403rd	Dick Wood	63rd
Odis Cleere	403rd	Bob Watson	65th
Jim Harcrow	65th	Nick Arabinko	64th
Jim Pettus	Hdqs	Robert Cooper	64th
	George White	63rd	



63rd Sqdn.



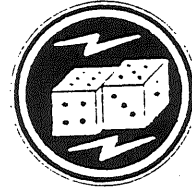
64th Sqdn.



403rd Sqdn.



65th Sqdn.



43RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER  
37th Edition - November 1990

## From BILL WILSON

The St. Louis reunion was great. BOB & IRENE WATSON, 65th, put the little pot in the big one and put on a real show. The Marriott was very nice to everyone, gave us special prices on food, rooms, etc. We sure missed several of the regulars.

I got home to find that my manager at the Ford house in Haskell was retiring. He had only been with me for 45 years. Also, fall cow work needed to be done. I'm now running the Haskell store, and it's only an 85 mile drive every morning and evening. Then for three days, MARY LOIS had to cook for sixteen cowboys. I thought the cowboys like me, and were just coming to help me. Turns out they love MARY LOIS'S cooking.

DUTCH & VONNIE EHLERS, 65th, showed up. DUTCH has a knee that's acting up, but it didn't slow him down much, still played golf.

DON BAKER, 65th, again worked in the store where we sell pins, caps and patches. DON, that puts another star in your crown. Thanks from all of us free loaders.

BILL BOLY, 65th, along with his daughter made their first reunion. BILL was riding a wheel chair, but he got to see everyone and had a great time. His beautiful daughter sorta jazzed the place up.

Our Vice President, DALE BARR, 403rd, got grounded and didn't make the meeting. DALE had a little flair up, and his doctor confined him to quarters. We all missed DALE & MARY. They add a lot to the reunions. See you in Norfolk.

BOB WATSON, got E. M. GYERMAN, 63rd, "Evolution of Air Power", from Bellville, ILL. to come over and set up his model aircraft display. He makes them all himself. The display takes up a big room. Almost every aircraft the Air Force ever had. I thought it was worth the trip just to see his show. He has been working on it for 40 years, and has shown it all over the country.

ODIS & BARBARA CLEERE, 403rd, wrote in to say they couldn't make St. Louis. Their son was hurt so they had no one to mind the store. Said to say hi to everyone, especially the great 43rd golf team. We miss both of you. Next stop, Norfolk.

RUDY CHERKAUER, 65th, reports on the air show sponsored by Geneseo War Place Museum on August 11th and 12th, 1990. It was a really big show. Got to see B-24J "ALL AMERICAN" in perfect condition. Real nostalgic sight. RUDY wanted to sign on for another tour. Reports in 1945, they had B-24 J's, L's and M's. The "M" was later called the M-6. He also sent the info to LARRY HICKEY. Thanks for all the help.

JOHN & GENEIVIEVE ROCHE, 64th, report GENEIVIEVE got two new knees in July, and is doing great. They are back on the dance floor, and the cane is now used to keep JOHN on the ball. Good report.

JIM PETTUS, 43rd CC, sent in a nice donation to the Memorial Fund from the PETTUS family. Thanks to JIM & BETTY. JIM brought ELLIS BROWN, CC of the 90th

Bomb Group, to our Thursday evening meal. It was nice to have ELLIS. Gave us someone new to rib.

GEORGE & CHRYSOULA CRITSIMILIOS, 64th, sent money for the Memorial Fund. Our thanks to both of you.

The city of Fort Worth, Texas sent an invitation for the 43rd Bomb Group to have a reunion in their city at some future date.

HERBERT & LULA CONVERSE, 64th, has Maxwell Field working on eight rolls of film that covers everything the Air Force has on the 63rd, 64th, 65th, and the 403rd. This film will be available to all of us, and can be viewed on a viewer. If a person wants a copy of any of it, he can have it printed. Should be available in December. LATE NEWS - IT'S HERE NOW.

JAY & BARBARA ZEAMER, 65th, sent in regrets on St. Louis, but have already made plans to be with us in Norfolk. We missed you two, but looking forward to being together next year. Glad you both continue to have good health.

NEIL & MARYLES FAIRBANKS, 403rd, reports on 5th Air Force activity. The 5th A.F. is working with the R.A.A.F. for a big celebration on the 50th Birthday of the "BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA". It also is the 50th Birthday of the R.A.A.F. It will be April/May 1992 in Townsville, Australia. A memorial park will be built at Townsville. The U.S. Ambassador in Australia has asked the President of the United States to be present.

NEIL also has a report on Cpl. Joseph Montuore, 92nd Airdrome Squadron, R.A.A.F. On the 3rd of April 1944, at strip 3 Nadzab, he pulled five 43rd members from a B-24 that crashed on take off. The aircraft then blew up. Tail Number N.R. 135. Joseph would like to get in contact with you five fellows. Larry Kabot, 92nd Airdrome Squadron, now lives at 1001 Woodlawn Terr., Madison, Florida 32340. If you recall any of this, let Larry know and he will pass the information along to Joe in Australia. On 17th April, 1989, Joe was finally awarded the Soldiers Medal. GEORGE WHITE, don't give up you may still get the "Good Conduct" Medal.

RUBY & BETTY JOHNSON, 65th, couldn't make St. Louis, but are all set for Norfolk. Still recall the great times at Colorado Springs. Also sent in Life Membership.

ALLEN & JEANNE CLATWORTHY, 63rd, doesn't want to take anything away from B-24 "ALL AMERICAN", but says if you want a real treat, check out the B-24 at Castle Air Force Base, Merced, California. ALLEN doesn't know about Black B-24's, but sure wishes he had had one on the night raids in 1944 and early 1945.

EDWIN & MARGARET WOJDAK, 64th, sent LARRY HICKEY over 200 pictures of his tour of duty with the 43rd. This was on 29th March 1988. Needs them back. Get the lead out, LARRY. ED also sent in other reports which I'm sure LARRY was pleased to get.

ROBERT & GLADYS GIPE, 65th, need a little help. ROBERT was hurt in flying school in 1943. His records were lost, so he has no proof of accident. Anyone in the class of 43G, Stuttgart, Arkansas, or 43G at Clarkdale, Miss., if you remember him, send him a note. ROBERT says he was known as the class "goof off", and the class book called him "limpy". Where was GEORGE WHITE.

DOUG & ILIENE LEAMAN 65th, couldn't make St. Louis, but sure were thinking of us. DOUG & JOEL GRIFFIN, 403rd, have fun writing each other. DOUG says Tail Gunners have always had to stick together.

The Cousteau books are great, and are now at most libraries. Might check it out. The parts by Michael, the son, on "BLACK JACK", was the best. But they are all good.

BILL & MARY EATON, 403rd, thinks we may have goofed. Could it be that GYLER was really J. R. GYLER. BILL made a flight out of Mareeba on March 31, 1945 with GYLER. Bet you are right, BILL.

JOEL GRIFFIN, 403rd, and BILL EATON met in Abilene, Texas, and for two hours, had a great visit. BILL sends me copies of letters he has written, and they are all great. Thanks, I enjoy them.

ED & JOHANNA TROCCIA, 65th, a "good" Yankee, is having a little trouble getting

the 65th to respond on the information BRUCE HOY wants. His list of bad boys includes, BILL BOLDY, "DOC" BRYANT, DUTCH EHLERS, LEW SUTTON, GEORGE SHAKO, MILTON BASS, ED FEILLE, ROBERT FULLER, EVAN HOWELL, GEORGE ENGLEMAN, AND CLAUDE ROBINSON. Please, all of the above, plus all the B-17 fellows, send ED your thoughts. If its pulling KP or loading the bombs, send in your comments so we can have a real fine book. ED is feeling much better, so help him out, send in your words of wisdom (any Squadron), and they will be on their way to Australia.

RAY & DOROTHY CRAWFORD, 65th, sent in a correction on the last news letter. Biak Island should have been Buka Island. Sometimes RAY, I get things right. Not often according to Col. WHITE. Thanks for the help. I'm sending a copy of your letter to LARRY HICKEY.

We had a sad thing happen at St. Louis, GEORGE WHITE, 63rd, and his lovely wife AILEEN were painting their house in New Jersey at the time of the reunion. AILEEN sent GEORGE on to the reunion and she stayed home and painted the house. GEORGE was so depressed with his wife home working, he went home early. Everyone else was having a great time. GEORGE felt like a kill joy, so he took off. The whole thing was real hard on GEORGE. (Is that what you told me to say, GEORGE?)

Robert E. Laird writes that he has a book on the "B-29's" and 20th Air Force ready. It's called "MAXIMUM EFFORT", and covers the B-29's from Kansas to Japan. Cost \$16.95 plus \$3.00 postage, total \$19.95. address Robert E. Laird, RR3 Box 4836, Chasanna Drive, Rutland, UT 05701.

JOHN & ELEANOR TALLITSCH, 403rd, sends in thanks to BOB & IRENE WATSON and all their helpers for a job well done at St. Louis. JOHN also sent a report on the reunion to RICHARD & GLADYS WILLIAMS, 403rd, and JAMES & LOVELLA PRESTON, 403rd. Both were on sick call, so couldn't make the reunion. Very nice thing to do, JOHN. ELEANOR has a great idea for the next reunion, give the normal temperatures for the reunion at the time it will be going on. Sure will cut down on the packing.

GEORGE SHAKO, 65th, sent in Life Membership. Now that SHAKO has \$100.00 invested, maybe we can get him to come to the reunion. It's hard for me to say SHAKO without BALDWIN & SHAKO, they were always together. He also was the one that tagged LLOYD BOREN with the "Breezy" bit. Sure be fun to see you. Your house is not all that far from Norfolk.

FRANK & LYNN WAYSEE, 64th, found their way to St. Louis and both had a very enjoyable time. The tall tales somehow seemed believable. The fellowship the Greatest. Don't tell GEORGE WHITE, but I think I made another boo boo. ALLEN NELSON'S crew had the most members present, SEVEN. They were: ALLEN NELSON, GEORGE HUNTER, EMIL LANGE, FRANK WAYSE, JOE JANCOSKO, ANDY ANDERSON, AND JACKSON YOUNG. Good show fellows. Oh yes! FRANK is now a Life Member.

JOE & MARY O'REILLY, 403rd, reports that MARY was going to have by-pass surgery in October. We all hope it went well for MARY.

BARBARA KREMER, reports her husband, JACK, 64th, passed away 29th August, 1989. JACK will be missed by all.

KATHLEEN TOEPPERWEIN, wife of LINDON "TOP" TOEPPERWEIN, 403rd, reports "TOP" passed away 13th June, 1990 of a heart attack. The news is regretfully received. It is always hard when one of our group is struck down.

VIRGINIA BLUMBERG, daughter of FRED BLUMBERG, 64th, reports FRED passed away Memorial Day, 1989. VIRGINIA says FRED was very proud of his part in the 43rd, and his fellowship with each of us.

JOHN S. EDMISTEN, JR. sends in a part of a diary report. Date 3rd April, 1944, Nadzab, New Guinea. B-24 out of control on take off, ground looped, hitting two B-25's. Give of the crew got out, then, two bombs went off, all three planes demolished. A fellow on the crash crew, "DOC" would like to hear from any of the five that got out. If you were one of them, write to JOHN S. EDMISTEN, JR., Rt 6 Box 700, Line Oak, FL 32060. He will get the information to "Doc". This sounds like the same crack up that LARRY KAPOT was inquiring about earlier.

WALDO & MARY SCHAUWEKER, 64th, has help on where is GLYER. He flew with WALDO, 22nd, December, 1942 on a photo mission to Buka, returning to Moresby over the Owen Stanley Range. Thunderheads real bad. Ups and downs, often 10,000 feet, even at 31,000 feet. Still no tops. Crew shook up, and Plane #937 went to the

bone yard. WALDO went to Group Operations, 5th Air Force. GLYER by then was General Whitehead's B-17 pilot. GLYER requested WALDO to fly with him. GLYER went home. WALDO got GLENN REAM as his co-pilot. Then WALDO went home and GLENN stayed on, and took "THE OLD MAN" back to the States picking up a new one. After the war, GLYER was living in Columbus, Ohio, and was killed flying a B47. WALDO tried to call his wife, only information, she does not live in Columbus. Thanks for your report. See you all at Langley.

MRS. LEO BLOSCHOCK wife of LEO BLOSCHOCK, 403rd, reports his passing 14th June, 1990. We are all very sorry to receive this information.

DICK & VELDA HEMPHILL, 65th, had a nice treat. DICK had lost his "Wings" shortly after WWII. Last month, he visited his sister. She had found them and there was a second "Wings" presentation. Just 48 years apart. Good story. Also, "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" was headed for Greenville, and guess who was going to see her?

RAY & DOROTHY CRAWFORD, 63rd, report there were no B-17G's in combat in 1944 & 1945 in the 5th AF. Correct you are. Yes, General Whitehead had a new B-17G for his personal plane. The other new B-17G will take BILL EATON to tell us who it belonged to.. Thank you for your remarks.

WARREN & RUTH KAESE, 65th, sent in some interesting stories. I will send them on to LARRY HICKEY. WARREN says he thinks he might have felt out of place at the reunion. He is 80 years old and was not on a flight crew. Young man you were in the 43rd Bomb Group, and it sure took all of us to get the job done. Show up at Norfolk and have a heck of a nice time. There are no strangers in the 43rd. Each did his bit. Besides, J. A. HOLT, the first Top Sergeant of the 43rd was at the reunion with his wife FAYE, and he is only 88 years old.

RICHARD WILLIAMS, 403rd, had to cancel out on St. Louis, his friend had a heart attack. New medication dissolved the clot, and everything turned out fine. RICHARD says the plumbing is back working great and will see us in Norfolk.

GARNETT & PAULINE PEELING, 65th, had to cancel out on St. Louis. Said to say hi to everyone and they are very sorry they could not make roll call.

R. J. "BOB" MULVEY, found out about the 43rd through the V.F.W and D.A.V. magazines. (BREEZY sends reunion notices to about 15 or 16 magazines). He was in the 403rd from Owi to Ie Shima. He was from Brookline, Mass., General Kenney's home town. Both went to the same High School. Retired now, lives on Cape Cod. Fat Life BOB.

HAROLD & DONNA KAHLER, 65th, are sorry they couldn't make St. Louis, but are all set for Norfolk. Good program, see you there.

JOHN "JACK" FAERBER, 65th, is still sold on his town, Newport, Rhode Island. TOM WHEDON and his brother in law stopped by to see JACK. JACK sent him home to get ELOISE and the rest of his family. GARNETT PEELING, 65th, also keeps in touch with him. Glad you are back hitting on all four.

ED TROCCIA, 65th, says JOHANNA had a cataract removed, and is getting along great. Both are much improved and about ready for Norfolk. He wanted who was elected President. No election this time, I have one more year. Glad there was no election. With GEORGE WHITE as my campaign manager, I couldn't get two votes. GEORGE said he would take the job if he didn't have to vote for me. ED talked to John H. Mitchell, author of the 19th Bomb Group book. The book is complete. Two publishers are bidding for the book. John's address is John M. Mitchell, Author and Historian, 1902 N. Old Orchard, Springfield, MO 65803. Thanks for the information ED.

AUSTIN "MATT" & PATRICIA MATTESON, 65th, missed St. Louis. They made the 50th Anniversary of "THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN". Had a fly over by Spitfires, Hurricanes, Lancasters, and others. Speeches by Air Vice Marshall and a Group Captain. Air shows at Farborough, Duxford, and the Air Museum at Henley. MATT, St. Louis was great, but I think you made the right choice. Just a note: We think of the Battle of Britain and Spitfires, but, in fact, more Hurricanes were used.

Another report on Joseph "Doc" Montuore. This one from Larry Kabot about B-24 NR 135 Strip #3, Nadzab, 3rd April, 1944.

### UNSUNG HERO

DEDICATED TO JOSEPH "DOC" MONTUORE 9/29/89

The plane fully loaded lumbered down the strip,  
Heading out on a mission that soon became a deadly trip.

With the engines sweetly singing and starting to reach for sky,  
There came a fateful blow out and the big ship began to die.

With a sickening crunch of metal, it slewed off into the Kauni grass,  
With it's load of gas, bombs, enlisted men and brass.

Disregarding the danger to themselves, they gathered up the crew,  
Speedily, they left the devastated scene, with a precious few.

The burning plane blew all to pieces and metal filled the sky,  
But thanks to men like "DOC" several men did not die.

This points out, again, how important each of us were to the defeat of Japan. No special mos's.

PEARL BONAWITZ, wife of LESTER BONAWITZ, 64th, reports LESTER passed away 23rd September 1990. He had been sick since 1979, more or less, bed-fast since 1985. LESTER, through it all, kept in good spirits. Did all kinds of hand work, etc.

ROBERT "TOD" & EULAMAE MILLER, Hdqrs., have been a bit under the weather, but are much improved. TOD was real pleased to learn ERVIN CHAMPEAU, 65th, was well and kicking. TOD thought his old buddy had passed away. Excellent report.

MURRY SCHULTZ, 63rd, joined the 63rd at Hollandia, & rotated from Clark Field June 1945. His only contact with crew is co-pilot, ARTHUR OLOFSON. He learned of "PAPPY'S" passing about a year ago. If you know anything about any of the rest of the fellows, let MURRY know.

TED & JOAN JASINA, 64th, sent in two years dues. Hope to get where they can make a reunion soon. We need you two, so try hard.

ROBERT "SHEP" SHEPPARD, Hdqrs., has had calls from GARRETT MINNICK, 64th, and DON WILBER, Hdqrs. Has written to "SPIKE" WOOLEY. That's the way to go, SHEP, we are in touch, so you be in touch.

WINONA TORDOFF reports the passing of ED TORDOFF, 64th, in August of this year. ED had Parkinson's disease. Loved the 43rd. WINONA wants to keep getting the newsletter, sent in dues. LARRY HICKEY, please send ED'S pictures, etc., back to WINONA. Yes, we are very pleased to have you as an associate member.

Glen W. Olson, 4306 Hegg Ave., Madison, WI 53716, was on B-24's in the 15th Air Force. Collects pictures of WWII air craft. If you can help Glen out, let him know.

C.A. "ANDY" & HELEN ANDRUS, 64th, report the passing of his brother in law, GEORGE H. RORABACK, 64th, on 7th Sept. 1990. ANDY & GEORGE were both in the 64th, July 43 to March 44. CHET LOWE was their pilot. He was KIA March 44 in New Guinea.

DAYTON & ANN BLANCHARD, 65th, couldn't make the St. Louis reunion. DAYT had eye surgery, but things are looking good for Norfolk. They also sent in a nice donation to the Memorial Fund. Hopes LARRY HICKEY gets on the ball with our book. We all do DAYT.

That's about it for now. The WILSON'S will have turkey with their family at their place in Ruidoso, New Mexico, then Christmas in Snyder as we approach this great Christmas season. BREEZY & HELEN join MARY LOIS & ME wishing each of you, very special people, God's richest blessing now and forever more.

### ST. LOUIS REUNION WRAP-UP BOB & IRENE WATSON, Chairpersons

The 43rd Bomb Group Association's 10th Annual Reunion at the Marriott Pavilion Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri is now History. Though it was not the largest in attendance, it most certainly will go down in history as one of the very best.



We had a total attendance of 370 wonderful, fun-loving and most friendly people, all of whom were so happy to see old friends once again. From all the comments heard and the notes and letters received, everyone was greatly impressed with the reunion programs, the excellent daily entertainment, the high quality of the food, the location of the hotel in relation to things to do, and the excellent hotel facilities and service, plus beautiful Autumn weather. It was truly a reunion to long-remember.

Even though the attendance was somewhat less than anticipated, we had plenty of money to pay all the bills, and still had a few dollars remaining that will be placed in the Association's General Fund.

In the Golf Tournament, ELDON "BUD" LAWSON, 65th, won the Traveling Trophy. In the Bridge Tournament, JOHN LOMBARD, 63rd, took the men's high score, followed by J.T. BRITTON, 65th, JIM MURPHY, 63rd, and DUTCH EHLERS, 65th. In the women's scores, first place was taken by JEANNE, PFIEFFER, 64th, followed by ROSEMARY WHITE, 65th, MARTHA REEVES, 64th, and VONNIE EHLERS, 65th. In the Tennis Tournament, due to the sloppy playing and continual clowning around on the court, we decided to call it a 5 way tie. The players, in no particular order, were; RODGER LITTLE, 63rd, BOB BUTLER, 63rd, MAX MAYER, 65th, JACK CAPERTON, 65th, and LLOYD BOREN, 65th. I believe, all kidding aside, most of us would give it to RODGER LITTLE.

We wish to thank everybody who took the time to pre-register and pay the reunion fee in advance - ninety percent of you did this. This, alone, was a most important factor in helping us to plan and conduct the reunion program in a way that precluded us from incurring a deficit. Sorry, we wish everyone of you could have won an A-2 Jacket for your pre-registration support. The jacket was won by WADE KEHR, 403rd.

We had, what we believe, three firsts at this reunion: (1) A standing room only Memorial Service: (2) A beautiful Gold & Blue & permanent ID Badge for everyone: (3) A video tape of the entire reunion program was made by our photographer: "pretty & petite" Marsha.

We believe we had the largest and best Sunday morning Memorial Service thus far. Most assuredly, our departed members truly appreciated the standing room only attendance, and were most impressed with the beautiful program presented in their honor. Our sincerest thanks go to DICK WOOD, 63rd, for his outstanding assistance in the conduct of this program.

The video tape (in color) of the reunion, will be sent out to everyone who ordered one, and it will be a minimum of 45 minutes running time. I talked to Marsha (the photographer) recently, and she said production was still on schedule; so you should be getting it in about three weeks or so. Those of you who did not order one, and would like to do so, just send your check payable to Marsha's Photography in the amount of \$30.00, and send to Marsha's Photography, Box 160302, St. Louis, MO 63116.

In an operation of this magnitude, it is impossible to get the job done right without the help of some capable volunteer workers. In this respect, we would like to express our sincere thanks to: JACK & CELESTE CAPERTON, 65th, Tennis, Registration and Tours: CHALKY & ROSEMARY WHITE, 65th, Registration and Tours: AL TONNE, 64th, Golf: J.T. BRITTON, Bridge and Ladies Night Talk: DON WATKINS, 65th, Registration and Tours: MIKE GYERMAN, 64th, Evolution of Airpower display: DON BAKER, 65th, Caps, Pins, and Insignia sales: AL & CHARLOTTE FISCHER, 63rd, Registration: TONY & VIRGINIA DEANGELIS, 63rd, Registration: MARY LOIS WILSON, 65th, Registration: BREEZY & HELEN BOREN, 65th, Dues collection, Registration and ID Badges: and last but not least, BILL WILSON, 65th, President, for the overall leadership and calming influence he so capably provided all during the entire affair. If we have over-looked anyone, we do apologize for the oversight, but, most assuredly, every little bit of help given was sincerely appreciated because it all added up to one terrific Reunion.

IRENE & I are most pleased and honored to have been your Chairpersons for this most successful 10th Annual Reunion, and we wish to thank all of you for your show of appreciation in the form of the gifts you presented us on Saturday night: a pair of authentic British Flying Boots for me, (I'm now equipped to fight the war all over again), and the beautiful "Arthur Court" silver serving dish, (I call it our Republican dish -- it has four elephants supporting the dish). In addition to the gifts, your expressed appreciation, plus the many

cards and letters of appreciation you sent, made us feel that our time and efforts over the past year were appreciated and well worthwhile. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it, especially since everything went so well.

We wish all of you much happiness and good health in the coming year and safe travels to Norfolk next year. We will see you there. BOB & IRENE WATSON

From LLOYD

I would like to add my thanks to BOB and IRENE WATSON for the wonderful work they did running the reunion under some very adverse health conditions. A lot of those attending the reunion were, possibly, not aware that BOB was recovering from a second (five) by-pass operation, other surgery, and a stroke. This was a maximum effort on their part. I think everyone who attended will agree that it was a fun time. I'm sure everyone appreciates the time and effort you both put into making the 43rd welcome to St. Louis. Well done!

MIKE GYERMAN is another member we are indebted to for his fantastic display of our Air Force planes in scale model. Not only did he have, virtually, every one of our force's planes, but every revised model of each plane. Thanks MIKE.

About 10 years ago, I got a letter from BILL BOLY, radio operator on DUTCH EHLER'S crew. I had served on the same crew, and BILL had gotten my name from the 19th BG roster. In his letter he stated that he had seen, in one of the service magazines, that BOB BUTLER was trying to get up a reunion of 43rd men in San Antonio in December of 1981. I called BOB and set up part of the reunion attended by 56 people.

BILL BOLY was able to make his first reunion in St. Louis. First time in all these years we had seen him. Unfortunately, he was in poor health, arriving in a wheel chair accompanied by his lovely daughter CAROLYN.

Since the reunion, CAROLYN has notified us that BILL is in the Veteran's Hospital with a brain tumor and is in poor condition. Our heart goes out to BILL and CAROLYN.

It was wonderful visiting once again with the old gang from the 65th, DUTCH & VONNIE EHLERS, GUS RAPISARDI, CHARLIE BELLOWS, JACK & CELESTE CAPERTON, "CHALKY" & ROSEMARY WHITE, BOB & IRENE WATSON, and BILL & MARY LOIS WILSON. One of these days we are going to talk "DOC" & ELEANOR BRYANT, also, GEORGE SHAKO into showing up.

Had a letter from FRANK WAYSSE, 64th, with Life dues enclosed and news that we had overlooked acknowledgment of ALAN NELSON'S crew (64th) -- ALAN NELSON, GEORGE HUNTER, EMIL LANGE, FRANK WAYSSE, JOE JANCOSKO, ANDY ANDERSON, and JACKSON YOUNG -- All seven being present at the reunion -- More than any other crew. This is not the first time this crew has walked away with that honor. FRANK really enjoyed the St. Louis reunion, sounds like they had a ball.

BILL GALIDA, 403rd, writes to say, that while he and DAYE were visiting family in Kansas City recently, they were entertained by CHARLIE and VAL MARVEL AT Stevenson's Apple Farm Restaurant in Independence, MO. Had a wonderful time and sends thanks to CHUCK and VAL. BILL also had kind words for our work on the newsletters, and sends his thanks to PHYLLIS CHRISTIANSEN for her fine work on the 403rd reunions.

Another nice letter from ED TROCCIA, 65th. Both ED and JOHANNA are in much better shape now ( they missed St. Louis), and plan on making Norfolk. GREG and VERA ROSS, 403rd, will be coming to see them for a week, and they will all drive down to Norfolk together.

Before I forget it; As those of you who are planning to fly to Norfolk will learn, the fares are not cheap, but there may be a way you can cut the overall expense. Delta Airlines has a SENIOR'S FUN FARE package. The plan gives you vouchers for 2 round trip flights anywhere in the continental limits that Delta flies. Reservations must be made 14 days in advance, but there are no restrictions on days you travel, but you must use the vouchers within one year. If you plan on another flight within the year, this would probably be a savings for you. You cannot use the two round trips for you and your wife on a single voucher book. The cost per person is \$464.00 for the vouchers. With airfare from San Antonio to Norfolk running over \$375.00 at the present time, I believe you can see where you could get a pretty good deal if you plan on making another

flight during the year. Check with your local travel agent, they can write your ticket for you, book seats, and all you have to do is arrive at the ticket counter one hour in advance and pick up your boarding pass and show proof of age. American Air Lines has the same service only you have to get your tickets 14 days ahead of time at the Air Line ticket counter instead of a travel agent.

Now, to business: We, once again, have the 12 inch bumper stickers available. They are the ones with the Fifth AF insignia along with "43rd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION". They are \$1.50 which includes postage.

We DID NOT get the gold plated prop pins, but did receive the round enameled 5th AF pins at the reunion. They went very well at the reunion, and we have less than 100 left. They are \$5.00 each including postage while they last.

We had very few caps left as this was, not only, the best looking cap, but the most expensive one we have had. It is a golf style (all cloth) cap with the Fifth AF insignia in full color. The insignia is surrounded by the St. Louis Arch, and has the lettering "43rd BOMB GROUP ASSN." across the top, and "ST. LOUIS - 10th ANNUAL REUNION" at the bottom. These are \$8.00 including postage while they last.

We also have a limited number of the Fifth AF shoulder patches and the Army Air Force shoulder patches. These are \$5.00 each including postage.

Since we were out of the Group jacket patch, I secured 50 more, and they are available at \$10.00 including postage. All of the above items are in short supply and won't last long. Order early.

Now for some news.

Probably the most important news of all, we have the ORIGINAL 43rd flag used by the Wing. When the Wing was deactivated, they retired this flag and had a new one made as this one was in pretty bad shape. The fringe was falling off, and there were a couple rips in the body of the flag. Both BOB WATSON and I had written Col. J.B. HALL JR., Wing CC, trying to secure the flag on a loan basis. Col. Hall, very generously, kept the old flag for us, and we now own it. Since I had been in correspondence with his NCO in charge of Protocol, T/Sgt. PAT TUTTLE, and PAT was being reassigned to Randolph AFB, he was kind enough to deliver the flag.

I have had the holes repaired, and new fringe put on by the Dixie Flag Co. and have the flag on a pole. It will be on display at every reunion. Its a beautiful flag, double sided, with the Bomb Group and Wing shield in the center. The shield is done in gold applique with darker gold embroidery. The scroll under the shield is in darker gold embroidery, and reads "43rd BOMBARDMENT WING". Over the shield is a beautifully embroidered, multi-colored, eagle, and surrounding the whole thing, a circle of 13 stars.

I checked with Dixie Flag Company, one of the worlds largest, and they advised that they could not duplicate the embroidery since it was done by hand. However, they can send it to Taiwan and a new one can be made at a cost of approximately \$1000.00. The flag is the same on both sides. If we did this, we would want to change the scroll wording to read "43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP", and change the number of stars to 12 to match our campaigns. The flag is Air Force blue and the fringe is gold.

I am not in favor of taking \$1000.00 from any of our funds, but would like to suggest donations to a fund to secure a copy as above. If any of you are interested in this, I will set up a checking account as "43rd Flag" and when we hit \$1000.00, secure a new flag, and place the present one under glass. In spite of repairs, its still fragile.

FRED EPPLEN, 63rd, called the other day to put me in touch with a car rental agency in Norfolk for those who will need to rent a car. I have talked to the manager, and will publish some rates in the next newsletter. The agency is owned by a former WWII bomber pilot. FRED also says he is trying to get KEN MEADE, 63rd, to make a reunion. KEN is 88 years young. He was in Intelligence.

HARRY & RACHEL URBAN were missed at the reunion. He has had some health problems, and has had some rough reactions to the medication. He wants to send both HIS and RACHEL'S congratulations to BOB WATSON for doing a good job on the



reunion under adverse health conditions. HARRY & RACHEL had dinner with GUS RAPISARDI when he returned from the reunion, and he brought them up to date on the happenings.

The last letter sent to the ones who had not paid for 1990 (dues are \$10.00 a year) brought some good results, but, there are still quite a few who have not paid. If its a matter of having the money, but just putting it off or forgetting it, we have a \$100.00 life membership. This letter is going to be sent to everyone whether they have paid or not, BUT, dues are now due for 1991 starting in January. We got a good head start on the dues at the reunion as most there paid their 91 dues at that time, however, we have a long way to go on the 91 dues, and beginning with the February newsletter, those who have not paid for 91 will not be receiving it, and those who have not paid for 90 and 91, will be dropped from the coming roster in April. Once again, dues are \$10.00 a year from January to January. You can tell where you stand by looking at your name label on this newsletter, after your name will be PD-90, 91, 92, 93, etc., or will be blank which means you owe for 90 and 91. The exceptions will, of course, be LIFE and COMP, our Life and Complimentary members (Widows, etc.).

For some of you who think you might not live long enough for the Life membership fee to be of value, consider WILLARD HUMPHRESS, 65th. He sent in \$110.00 for a Life membership plus one month. That's an optimist. PS: Willard, look at your roster and fill in some of the blank spaces by your name. NOT A BAD IDEA FOR ALL OF YOU. CHECK THE INFORMATION IN THE ROSTER AND BE SURE WE HAVE EVERYTHING RIGHT. LET ME KNOW.

We regret to announce the passing of JO BETH CATTON, wife of Gen. JACK CATTON, November 3, 1990. Our sympathy to Gen. CATTON and the family. Gen. CATTON, in addition to being a Life member, is also the only 4 Star General on our roster. He was a former 65th Squadron C/O, and a former Group CC.

Heard from JOHN "JACK" RUCKER, a new member from the 63rd. This guy won 4 gold and 1 silver medal in Kayak 500 meter/5000 meter races at the World Master Games held in Denmark in Aug. 1989. After 45 years, he finally found two of his crew, F. NEAL FUGATE, and JAMES F. MC GUIRE. He has talked to both of them and hopes to meet with them in Norfolk at the reunion.

Regarding the next reunion at Norfolk, we will be dedicating a plaque at Langley Field at that time. It represents the founding of the 43rd at Langley Field 50 years ago in 1941. The dates have been set, and the time schedule has been compressed. The group voted in St. Louis to start the reunion on Wednesday through the Sunday brunch. The dates are Wednesday the 23rd of October through the following Sunday brunch October 27th. As usual, a bunch of us will be arriving ahead of time and the Omni International Hotel is extending our rate to include two days ahead and two days after the reunion.

The Omni International Hotel will host our reunion, and I am sure you will like this hotel. It is right on the Elizabeth River, and is beautifully landscaped along the river. The hotel itself is very nice, the rates will be \$66.00 single or double, and, for those driving, parking is free. Probably the best of all, next door is an enormous mall. It was plenty large when we were there last year, but when we arrive for the reunion it will be twice the size. Plenty of restaurants and shopping right outside your door. Even a boat ride outside your door. Much more in future newsletters. Remember, tell them you are with the 43rd Bomb Group.

Had a visit the other day from HAROLD "ACE" HASTINGS, 64th, and he filled in details on the unvailing ceremonies for the \$250,000.00 statue he donated to the Denton, Texas area. The statue is beautiful, and was placed at the Grayson County Airport. ACE was unable to come to the St. Louis reunion because of conflicting dates with the unvailing. In his dedication speech, he called the statue "a window of the past". He dedicated the statue to "all those people from this age and this area who helped bring us to where we are today. I would like those astronauts of the future to look back through this window of time to the airmen who started it all," HASTINGS said.

ACE also let me copy a vidio cassette showing the ceremonies, and another tape of a newsreel on the Bismarck Sea Battle. At the end of the newsreel, HASTINGS is shown describing the battle, and very much in evidence, over his shoulder, is KEN MCCULLAR. There are other men in the newsreel, and I will bring the vidio to the Norfolk reunion so it can be shown. The picture at the end shows HASTINGS getting a handshake from Congressman Ralph Hall. The other is the 43rd Flag.

PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR ROSTER

HEADQUARTERS

HOWARD D. GONGAWARE  
502 N. MAIN ST.  
GREENSBURG, PA 15601

COL. JULIAN B. HALL JR.  
7TH BMW/CC  
CARSWELL AFB, TX 76127

63RD SQUADRON

ROBERT "BOB" MOSSER  
830 ROCKCREEK DR.  
DAYTON, OH 45458

JOHN F. MACPHERSON  
520 S. 2ND #1412  
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

ALEX SEDILKO  
RANCHO TEHAMA PO BOX 5344  
CORNING, CA 96021

JOHN RUCKERT  
RT 1 BOX 1100  
WEEMS, VA 22576

TIGER MILLER  
290 W. 5TH AVE.  
CLIFTON, IL 60927

WENDELL DICKINSON  
1803 CLINTON TRAIL  
CHARLOTTE, MI 48813

JAMES PEACOCK  
731 S. LOOMIS  
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540

JOE BLAIR  
226 SHIREY RD.  
SILVER SPRINGS, MD 20901

64TH SQUADRON

WILLIAM J. COULTER  
101 S. PEARL ST W3C  
ALBANY, NY 12207

DONALD M. WILLIAMS  
P.O. BOX 246  
YERINGTON, NV 89447

JAMES ASPINWALL  
422 WALNUT LANE  
MASON, OH 45040

E. M. "MIKE" GEYERMAN  
316 MC KINLEY DR.  
BELLVILLE, IL 62220

FRANK TRIBENDIS  
398 WALNUT ST.  
LUZERNE, PA

65TH SQUADRON

LOUIS H. NEWPORT  
2 CAROB  
IRVINE, CA 92715

403RD SQUADRON

R. J. "BOB" MULVEY  
P. O. BOX 353  
SO. YARMOUTH, MA 02664F

JIM WHITEHEAD  
9 BROOKWOOD DR.  
FENTON, MO 63026

CHARLES E. OLDHAM  
5227 WESTMINSTER  
ST. LOUIS, MO 63108

RAYMOND COLBERG  
1233 DUBRAY CT.  
KIRKWOOD, MO 63122

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, WIVES, and GUESTS WERE REGISTERED AT THE REUNION

HEADQUARTERS

DR. EUGENE & HELEN AUSTIN, HOOVER COTT, BOB CUTLER, J.A. & FAYE HOLT, TONY IAPIETRO, JEAN & BETTY JACK, WILSON KING & GUEST, HARVEY LARSON, FRED & MAURINE MC ALISTER, JIM & BETTY PETTUS, HARRY STALEY, and DON & PAT WILBER.

63RD SQUADRON

WARREN & DOROTHY ADAMS, JOHN & PATRICIA AHERN, LLOYD & ANNE ANDERSON, MICHAEL BACHI, ROBERT BACON, KEN BECKSTROM, BILL BENTZ, CLARENCE & JEANNE BROKKE, BOB & DORIS BUTLER, STAN & ANITA CASEY, BILL & CLEO CHURCH, JOE & DELORES COX, BILL & BETTY CROFT, HARRY DALZIEL, TONY & VIRGINIA DE ANGELIS, WENDELL & MADELINE DICKINSON, JIM & AUDREY DIEFFENDERFER, RUSS EDWARDS, GERALD EGGER, FRED & HELEN EPPLER, AL & CHARLOTTE FISCHER, ROLAND FISHER, S. L. & JEAN FLINNER, NEAL FUGATE, RAYMOND & BETTY GATES, WALT & LAURA GESSNER, JOHN & ELEANOR HARMON, ROBERT & IMOGENE HILL, GEORGE HOLSTEAD, BILL & VIRGINIA HOOVER, WILBERT & JEAN HOUSEHOLDER, RICH & MILDRED HOWARD, LEE HOWLETE, CARL & GINNY HUSTAD, EPHRON JAMES, ZIG & RUTH JANOWSKI, FRANCIS & ARLENE LANGLAND, PAUL & MARY LEDGER & GUEST ANN JENKINS, RODGER & NORMA LITTLE, LELAND & CHARLOTTE LAUGHREY, JOHN LOMBARD, FRANCIS MAC PHERSON, BILL & JUNE MC MURRAY, LOUIS & HELEN MIKLOS, TIGER MILLER, JAMES MURPHY, HAROLD & PAT NEWTON, STEVE & MADELINE PERRONE, ROY & JIMMIE PERRY, HERBERT & BONNIE PFLUEGER, BOB & FLORRIS PLOWMAN, CHUCK & PAT

RAUCH, FRANK & MARGERY REMANIAK, GEORGE SETHER, JOE & FLORENCE SOSNOWSKI, JOE & STELLA TINSMAN, ALBERT TUBESING, ROGER & OLGA VARGAS, JAMES & OMA WATTS, CHUNKEY & CLARA MARIE WILFERT, GEORGE WHITE, DICK WOOD & GUEST, CHARLES & ELIZABETH WOODS, and KENT & MARTY ZIMMERMAN.

#### 64TH SQUADRON

HOWARD "ANDY" ANDERSON & GUEST, CLETUS & SAM ANGERMEIER, NICK & SHIRLEY ARABINKO, PAUL & HELENE BARBUS, KEN & ROSEMARY BROWN, RUSS BURNETT, LES & HELEN COFFMAN, JOE CHEPULIS, BOB COOPER & GUEST, RAYMOND & DOROTHY CRAWFORD, MIKE GYERMAN, CHARLEY & MARY LANE GIDDINGS, FALCNOR & GOLDIE GIFFORD, ALVIN HAAS, DICK & JANE HENNIG, PHIL HOFFECKER, GEORGE & IVY HUNTER, JOE & HELEN JANCOSKO, GEORGE & ANN JUOPPERI, ROGER & AUDREY KETTLESON, FLOYD & MARY HELEN KNAPP, EMIL LANG JR., GEORGE & MARJORIE LYNCH, CHARLES MC CLENNY, GARRETT & MARY MINNICK, HARVEY & CLARA MOODY, ART & BEVERLEE MULLIGAN, ALLEN NELSON, EVERETT & GRACE PERKINS, JOHN & JEANNE PFEIFFER, VERNON & MARTHA REEVES, CARL & JANE REUTINGER, JOHN & GENEVIEVE ROCHE, SHAD & NAOMI SHADDOX, WILLIAM & JEANNE SMITH, LUCKY STEVENS, AL TONNE, FRANKLIN WAYSEE, EDWIN & MARGARET WOJDAK, and JACKSON & DOT SUE YOUNG.

#### 65TH SQUADRON

LAYTON & ANN BACON, DON BAKER, JOSH & ALICE BARNES, CHARLIE BELLOWS, BILL BOLY & DAUGHTER CAROLYN, LLOYD & HELEN BOREN & GUESTS, RON & JEANNE GREENLEE & GERALDINE MC COURTNEY, MARCIA BRENNEMAN & GUEST, J. T. BRITTON, HERBERT & MARIE BRUNE, JACK & CELESTE CAPERTON, BAIRD & ESTHER CHRISMAN, BEN & JANE DAMRON, TED & LORI DE FEDERICIS, DUTCH & VONNIE EHLERS, JAMES EIDE, CLEVE & SHIRLEY ENO, OWEN & JOYCE ERNSTHAUSEN, AL FAIR, WILLIAM GAFFNER, JOHN GOOSHERST, DR. MILTON GUSACK, ARNOLD HUSKINS, TOM & KATHLEEN JAMISON, JAMES & MARY ZOE KLEIN, ELDON & BETTY JO LAWSON, HANK LEWIS & JAN TALLEY, HARRIS LEIN, DON & SHIRLEY MARSAGLIA, MAX MAYER, MAC & CLAIRE MC CLURE, ED & HELEN O'CONOR, JULES POWELL, GUS RAPISARDI, EARL & STELLA RESHAW, JOHN ROBERTSON, CLAUDE & CLARICE ROBINSON, JIM & ANNE SHROPSHIRE, EDWIN STUELAND, REGGIE & LUCILLE TATRO, WILTON THOMAS, ROBERT VALLANCE & GUEST DOTTIE HEFFELFINGER, ANN-LEE WARNER, DON WATKINS, BOB & IRENE WATSON & SON STEVEN WATSON, GEORGE & ANN WEICHLEIN, CHALKY & ROSEMARY WHITE, and BILL & MARY LOIS WILSON.

#### 403RD SQUADRON

PERCY & JUANITA ALEXANDER, GEORGE & JEAN ANDERSON, HERBERT & MILDRED ANDRESS, PAUL & JACKIE BAUER, RICHARD & FLORENCE BELL, WALTER & MELISSA BILL, HARRY & ESTHER BRADLEY, WILLIAM & OGGLETTA BURNS, ROBERT & MARY BYRNE, PAUL & CAROLYN COBER, MIRON & MARIE DUKES, ARTHUR & VIRGINIA DURBECK, WILLIAM EDWARDS JR., NEIL & MARLYS FAIRBANKS, BELFORD & LILLIAN FRISBY, TALBOT & WAUNETA GARNER, JOE & CLARA GOSSEAU, ABE HELLMAN, HAROLD & PHYLLIS JOHNSON, WADE & BURNELL KEHR, VERN & RITA KINZLER, SID & BERNIE LEE, EVERETT & DOROTHY LIND, FREDERICK & JANET LLOYD, JOHN & LOUISE LYLE JR., MARTIN & FAY MC BEE, JACK MINIERE, LLOYD & BETTY MORGAN, CHARLES OLDHAM, PAUL & ELAINE PASKVAN, NATHANIEL & LUCY PHILPOTT, GREG & VERA ROSS, BOB & ARLENE ROTH, GERALD SNYDER, JOE & SALLY SNYDER, BILL SOLOMON, ALBERT & REMY SYLVIA, JOHN & ELEANOR TALLITSCH, STAN & LILLIAN TULIG, JAMES WHITEHEAD, and REHART & MARY ZAHURANEC.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER --- LARRY HICKEY

Your new directors for the three year period beginning January 1st, 1991 are:  
Hdqrs. - JIM PETTUS, 64TH - NICK ARABINKO, 63RD - JIM DIEFFENDERFER  
403RD - PAUL COBER

#### HAPPY HOLIDAYS

##### BILL and MARY LOIS WILSON

President  
Drawer M, Snyder, Texas 79549  
Phone (915) 573-6784

##### LLOYD and HELEN BOREN

Secty - Treasurer - Newsletter  
102 Beechwood, Universal City, TX 78148  
Phone (512) 658-5978

