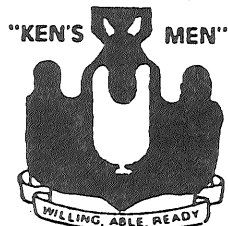


# FORTY THIRD BOMB GROUP ASSN. INC.

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63rd Sqdn.



64th Sqdn.



403rd Sqdn.



65th Sqdn.

43rd BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER  
38th EDITION, February 1991

## FROM BILL WILSON

Desert Storm.... If TV had been around 50 years ago, I guess WWII would still be going on. I don't know how you fight a war with 2800 reporters around. GEORGE WHITE went down to re-up, checked his qualifications, sent him back to basics at Sheppard AFB. I tried to find my old B-17E, sent me to Arizona. No luck. GEORGE & I may not be much help. BREEZY BOREN & BOB BUTLER are pleased to see these kids we have for bomb aimers are almost as good as they were. I know we are all very proud of our Air Force and all the Troops. God bless each of them.

GEORGE PUTMEN, 403rd, called in from California, sent LARRY HICKEY his best WWII pictures a good while back. His family wants them back. Come on, LARRY, get on the ball. Send the pictures and other things back to the fellows.

From "BAD NEWS", the 8th AF report, comes word of the attempt to recover the 2 B-17's and 6 P-38's lost in the snow and ice in Greenland. In 1981, PAT EPPS & RICHARD TAYLOR created the Greenland Expedition Society. They have made six trips to carry out their mission. Summer of 1990, a 5 foot shaft, 250 feet deep, found "BIG STOOP", a B-17, that 48 years ago was in route to England. The glacier, its weight and movement, had taken it's toll on the aircraft. Maybe a book or movie will be the result of their efforts.

The 19th Bomb Group reports their October 1990 reunion in Colorado Springs was great. Lots of last minute problems, etc., but finally got things going. Makes you appreciate people like RACHEL & HARRY URBAN and the others that have worked so hard to see that our reunions have gone so smoothly.

LLOYD BOREN is trying to raise enough money to get a new 43rd Flag made. The one the 43rd Wing had is very pretty, double faced and hand embroidered. It is old and frail, we have made some repairs, but it should be retired under glass. The Dixie Flag Co. in San Antonio, one of the largest in the world, says the flag will have to be made in Taiwan because of the embroidery, and will cost in the neighborhood of \$1000.00. The only change would be to substitute GROUP for WING. more from LLOYD later. We have a little money, so if I hear no objections, I will let the Group's money make up what we are short, then we can have "OUR FLAG" for the Norfolk Reunion. Of course, the Wing flag will be there too.

The nice thing about this job is MARY LOIS & I get lots of Christmas cards. They are all nice and we enjoy them. Some of them, this year, came from DON BAKER, 65th; JANE & DICK HENNING, 65th, bragging about a new great grandson; CAROLYN & PAUL COBER, 403rd, reporting PAUL had by-pass surgery, out of the hospital in six days, and coming along fine; HELEN MAE & ORVILLE COULTER, 64th, both back on go; DR. MILTON "BUD" GUSACK, 65th Flight Surgeon, got some of my pecans in an old Ford parts box. Thought they were parts for his 1977 Lincoln. (Doc will see us all in Norfolk); DELEDA & RICHARD "MONTY" MONTGOMERY, 63rd, are having trouble keeping up with the time. It goes too fast. DELEDA says MONTY got a new valve in 1990. Should be a great help; PAULINE & GARNETT PEELING, 65th, send greeting from Presque Isle, MI. Wish I lived in town with a pretty name like that; JANE & RUSS BURNETT, 64th, are still enjoying the Bangor and St. Louis reunions. So many memories, already getting ready for Norfolk; MARGARET &

MAX AXELSEN, 403rd, sent a real surprise and treat. A 1944 Christmas card of the 43rd Bomb Group (H). Brought back lots of memories. Thanks so much.

JOSE HOLGUIN, 65th, sent best wishes and a report his family is all well. Little JOE is someone very special to MARY LOIS & ME, one of HAL WINFREY'S crew.

JOHANNA & ED TROCCIA, 65th, sends best wishes for good health in the coming year. JIM REMBISZ, JOE SARNOSKI'S nephew, sends good wishes to all, but a very special greeting to BOB BUTLER, 63rd. JOHN S. "JACK" FAERBER, 65th, had us all remembered in the Holy Ghost Fathers Christmas Novena of Masses. Thanks so much JACK.

FRED WHITNEY, 403rd sends Christmas wishes to all of us; MARY & DALE BARR, SR., 403rd, sends Christmas greetings to all. DALE also sent me a short note (short for him, only two typewritten pages). DALE'S health is better, medications seem to be working. Their seven kids and 18 grandkids keep them jumping. DALE & GEN had a big time at the 403rd reunion and are looking forward to the '91 reunion. PHYLLIS CHRISTIANSON is the reunion chair person. Thirty dollars a day room and board.

CHARLIE MARVEL, 403rd, found CARL AVERILL, their radio operator. Turns out he lives just a few miles from "MOOCH" MANCINI, their ball turret operator. That just about completes JEAN JACK'S crew. They need to all get together.

IRMA & ROLAND FISHER, 63rd, found J.W. "CU" KINGSTON, the 63rd weatherman. "CU" lives at 5066 Wightman St. Apt #24, San Diego, CA 92105, phone number (619)563-6128. He is the fellow who never missed a forecast. ROLAND points out I never gave him credit for finding ART MILLARD, 63rd. Just another goof up for me. I guess GEORGE WHITE was correct in not voting for me.

ED TROCCIA, 65th, reports LEW SUTTON & DOC BRYANT have sent in the information BRUCE HOY wanted. The bad boys are DUTCH EHLERS, GEORGE SHAKO, MILTON BASS, ED FEILLE, BUD FULLER, EVAN HOWELL, GEORGE ENGLEMAN, & CLAUDE ROBINSON. BRUCE HOY called ED from Australia to thank the fellows for sending in the information.

IRENE & BOB WATSON, 65th and ex-reunion chair persons, continue to do things just right. Made up plaques and sent them to the people that helped with the St. Louis reunion. I never pay attention to rank anymore, we all did our bit in what ever way we could and let it go at that, but two of our bunch stand out to me (maybe others I don't know about), HARRY URBAN & BOB WATSON came up through the ranks and made "Bird" Colonel. Seeing their work at Colorado Springs and St. Louis, its very easy to see why. We are very proud of both of you.

JOHN & GENEVIEVE ROCHE, 64th, stopped by to see ADELE & KENNETH STEVENS, 64th, in Grand Rapids, Michigan on their way home from St. Louis. Took KEN a cap, pin and badge. KEN is a bit under the weather and unable to attend the reunions, but is a 100% 43rd member.

RALPH DE LOACH, 63rd, was sorry HARRY STALEY, 63rd, did not get the film from the Cousteau Society in time for St. Louis. He is sending me a copy for Norfolk. Mr. Cousteau asked RALPH to return for a two week visit to the village where they ditched. It didn't work out, RALPH was tied up on another project. But they sent him a copy of the film they made. Will add a lot to the Norfolk reunion. Thanks RALPH.

CLARE & ARVID HOUGLUM, 64th, want to get some old addresses to our research man. Doctor, his name is MATT HOLOHAN, 7737 91st St. North, Seminole, FL 34647. And another thing, Doctor, that old Methodist Preacher was finally right. Bad things happen on the dance floor. But really, to avoid them, don't quit the dance floor, just quit the "twist".

RALPH SCOTT, 65th, and also of the BAD 2 Association, sent me a page out of the Air Force Magazine on skip bombing. If you have a copy, it is on page 87, November issue. Excellent report on KEN MC CULLAR. Thanks RALPH.

MARY & BILL EATON, 403rd, sent me a report on their year. They have a great family and an excellent life. Keep it up Billy Boy. LULA & HERBERT CONVERSE, 64th, did get all the film on the 43rd that Maxwell Air Force Base has, 10 rolls of microfilm. Thanks so much for all your help HERBERT. LLOYD has one set of films and I have the other. I'll send mine to LARRY HICKEY so he and BRUCE can use them in writing our book.

ANN & DAYTON BLANCHARD, 65th, sent a nice article on JAY ZEAMER & JOSEPH SARNOSKI, also in the Air Force Magazine, this on page 119, December issue. It

recounts their mission to Bougainville. As we all know, JAY & LITTLE JOE received the MEDAL OF HONOR, and the rest of the crew received the Distinguished Service Cross.

ELIZABETH & PATRICK FREEMAN, 65th. Gosh, they are nice people. Addressed me as "Honorable"! How about that, GEORGE WHITE? Anyway, PAT says, after reading about JOSEPH "DOC" MONTUORE, he recalled a sad event on either the 2nd or 3rd of March 1944. His crew was in "LUCKY LUCILLE" waiting to take off. At that point, a 64th aircraft was in trouble. They got out of their aircraft in time to see the B-24 of the 64th blow up. In a little while what appeared to be snow started falling from the sky. Turned out it was Navigators Maps. PAT still has a small piece of the map.

AUDRY & ROGER KETTLESON, 64th, sent in a good article on General Walker and his loss on the 5th of January, 1943. Also tells of the other crew being located on a coral Atoll. I think it was JEAN JACK'S crew.

DOROTHY & ART CURREN, Hdqrs., stopped by the KETTLESON'S on December 27th. ART says General Walker's aircraft made it's bombing run across Rabaul Harbor at 2,500 feet, and also says ROGER came across at 4,500 feet. ROGER says he was so busy he can't confirm the height.

LORRAINE & HOWARD SHOMO, 64th, sent a donation to the Memorial Fund. So did JOE "SHEP" CHEPULIS, 64th. Thanks folks. VALERIE & RICHARD WIRTZ, 63rd, send seasons greetings to all the 43rd. Recommends a book back in print for the 50th anniversary of the 5th Air Force. The name of the book is "THE FIFTH AIR FORCE STORY". Price is \$14.95 plus \$2.50 postage. Sunshine House Inc., P.O. Box 2065, Terre Haute, IN 47802, or call 1-800-999-0141. RICHARD was nose gunner on crew #12, Scott Project. He called his pilot and bombardier to wish them a merry Christmas and try to get them to sign up with us. They are CRAIG MC INTOSH, Greensboro, NC, and HAROLD A. WOODS, Washington, LA. Thanks, RICHARD, see you in Norfolk.

Mrs. Ann Surany, 2 Dougan Street, Sydney Ashfield, 2131, Australia, is still looking for Bob and Duke. They were in the 19th Bomb Group, I think. Liked to dance at the service men's hall at Cairns. Stayed at the Imperial Hotel there when on leave. Any help, let me know or write direct to Mrs. Surany.

SERENUS MITCHELL, 63rd, & J. L. JOHNSON, JR., 403rd, had newsletters returned marked deceased. I have no other information at this time.

LLOYD & HELEN BOREN, 65th, hosted a mini reunion for BOB & DORIS BUTLER, 63rd, and some of their friends on the 9th of December. BOB & DORIS were in town to spend a couple days at the Hilton Palacio del Rio on the river walk where they got the 1st reunion together in December of 1981. They were in town to see the Christmas lights again. At the party were, MAX & MARGARET AXELSEN, 403rd, PAT & CHARLIE TUTTLE, Hdqrs., (He delivered the flag from Guam to Lloyd), DAYTON & ANN BLANCHARD, 65th, BILL KING, Hdqrs., DUTCH & VONNIE EHLERS, 65th, ED & PAT FEILLE, 65th, KENT & MARTY ZIMMERMAN, 63rd, and TERRY & PAT GUTHRIE. They all had a great time. Very nice thing to do.

JOHN COOP, 403rd, reports he made BRUCE HOY copies of his orders and it filled in some gaps for BRUCE. JOHN also sent in extra on his dues. Thinks living in Australia takes a bit more postage to get him the Newsletter and Roster. Thanks, JOHN, for your help, BREEZY sends out all the overseas mail first class, and appreciates the help.

CLYDE & GISELA FARRELL, 63rd, have had a good year, keep up with the 43rd bunch. Checked on IRENE & LEN NYGARD, 63rd, HILDA & DOMINICK ANGERAME, 63rd, SHIRLEY & DON O'BRIEN, 63rd, ANNA MARIE & VIC FRANCO, FLORENCE & FRED CHRISTMAS, VIRGINIA & JESS GIBSON, and DELBERT SMITH, all 63rd. SMITTY had to put in a few days in the V.A. Hospital. CLYDE also found time to build an aircraft hanger. Good Year.

DOROTHY & LEWIS SUTTON, 65th, are sorry they missed the St. Louis reunion. VALERIA & CHARLES MARVEL, 403rd, stopped by to see them. Big visit.

BETTY & RUBY JOHNSTON, 65th, are going to see that the SUTTONS get to Norfolk.

I regret to inform you that General JACK J. CATTON passed away on the 4th of December last, just a month or so after his wife JO BETH died. JACK was a former C/O of the 65th, and a former C/C of the 43rd. He was also the standby pilot for "LUCKY LADY II".

ELEUTERIO "TERIO" NAVA, 65th, was engineer on RALPH POULSEN'S crew. They flew

"TARGET FOR TONIGHT" and put in a lot of missions. After WWII, he served in the National Guard, and retired in 1981 as a Light Col. TERIO is in the New Mexico Veterans Center, P.O. Box 927, Truth or Consequences NM 87901. Drop him a note, he's been in a wheel chair for a long time. Says he hasn't made a reunion because of that. Don't let that stop you, we have quite a few in wheel chairs.

KEN BEILER sent in his dues and an article on KEN MC CULLAR. He asked about the film we have on the 43rd. Its microfilm, and can only be viewed on a microfilm viewer.

KENNETH & URSULA GISSONNE, 403rd, are sorry they missed St. Louis, but are OK for Norfolk. He missed the crew from "RIO RITA". Says to tell BILL CHURCH, 63rd that he has a picture of them in Sydney. I think BILL'S phone number is still 214-943-8450.

HELEN & FRANK GREEN, 63rd, say Dayton, Washington, in late December, was 20 below. Great for snowmobiles, otherwise forget it. FRANK is about over by-pass surgery and hopes to see us at the next reunion.

RUSSELL KNUTSON, 403rd. Started in the 435th Squadron, 19th Bomb Group, then to the 403rd. 38 months later, back to the States. Hopes to make this reunion in Norfolk. His son is a Light Col., F-16 pilot at Langley. RUSS found an old buddy and got him signed up. WALTER LARSEN, 551 Wadsworth Road, Medina, Ohio 44256. Thanks for the good work.

Santa Anna Army Air Force Base, Costa Mesa, California is having a celebration. 50 years ago was ground breaking. April 20, 1991, all are invited.

RUSSELL "DUTCH" & BETTIE AURENTZ, 65th, want to know if there are any plans for the reunion in Australia. None for the 43rd. Big blow out at Townsville for all 5th AF and RAAF people. DICK WOODS put a trip together for several of us 3 or 4 years ago. May want to try it again. What do you think, DICK.

JAMES THOMPSON, 63rd, sent in an interesting news report on a B-29. A fellow by the name of Harry Temple was crew chief on a B-29 in WWII. The same plane is being restored in Florida, Harry is helping, it's at the Pima Air Museum.

FLORENCE & FOLMER SOGAARD, 63rd, were hunting for their 1990 Roster, couldn't find it. FLORENCE asked FOLMER if he had sent in their dues. In came in their dues. Life back to normal.

HOWARD & WILMA ROGERS, 64th, say thanks for the newsletter and the great job that Lloyd does. Reports HOWARD had a little health problem, but is about back to normal.

Robert E. Ley, Vice President 19th Bomb Group Assoc. sends word of their reunion, the 13th-15th of June, 1991 in San Antonio, TX. Contact James A. Keracofe, 274 Quinn Rd. West Alexandria, OH 45381, Phone 513-839-4441 or Robert E. Ley, 3574 Wellston Ct., Simi Valley, CA 93063, phone 818-703-7717.

JOSEPH "SHEP" CHEPULIS 64th, is still doing good things for his fellow man. SHEP started in 40 years ago keeping the grounds for the Little League teams in Plymouth, PA. Forty years later, he is still at it. The other day, the Barnes Street Park was renamed "JOSEPH "SHEP" CHEPULIS PARK". Excellent work. Lots of kids became better men because of "SHEP".

Heard from old DELBERT "SMITTY" SMITH, 63rd, hailing from Rogers, Arkansas. Sends in a sizable amount for the new 43rd Flag in memory of all that served in the 43rd Bomb Group, KP's to Generals, each did his bit. SMITTY is the smartest one in the bunch. Why not use Memorial funds to finish up the Flag fund, That's what it's all about. So, BREEZY, as SMITTY says, get it on and let's get the hell out of here.

LORENZA & THEODORE ROMANOWSKI, 403rd, send this report. Feel fine, got eye implants, can see as good as a hawk. When is the next flight to Rabaul. Watching the flight board for DURBECK'S crew to go on alert.

WARREN "DOC" BRYANT, 65th, finally reported in. He wants everyone to know he is now one of the good guys. Sent his report in to BRUCE HOY. "DOC", BREEZY & I were on "DUTCH" EHLER'S crew. I left the crew when I got checked out as 1st Pilot. The INDIAN took my place and they kept flying together. Great to hear from you "DOC".

JAMES MARTIN, 63rd Intelligence, sent in report on the passing of General

CATTON. It was in the San Jose, CA paper. JIM, the statue "ACE" HASTINGS gave to the city of Denison, is dedicated to all fliers, from the old days to the present. Note from Lloyd; In the last issue of the newsletter, I, mistakenly said Denton, Texas.

EDWARD & LIL DALY, 65th, couldn't make St. Louis. LIL had a big deal going in Florida. They will be in Norfolk. His pilot, ANDY BUROCHONECK and wife DOROTHY are coming with them. ED got to see his co-pilot, DALE COOPER in Kansas City in '89. Why not get DALE to meet you all in Norfolk?

ROY BAILEY, 64th, was sorry to learn of JACK KREMER'S passing. They flew several missions together.

Received a clipping out of the Post Standard paper, Syracuse, NY, reporting the passing of ROBERT N. MITCHELL, 65th. To his wife MARY and their family, the 43rd Bomb Group sends deepest regrets.

PHYLLIS & ELWYN HANSEN, 403rd, couldn't make St. Louis, but did make the 403rd get together in Aurora. Great fun to see THOMAS JONES, RAYMOND ETTER, and others. PHYLLIS & ELWYN both report good health and a good life. Looks like the good Lord blessed you both.

MILDRED & ED RODBURG, Hdqrs., sent in a picture of the mighty 43rd Baseball Team of '45 at Rizal Stadium, Manila. They traveled from Layte to Manila courtesy Army Air Force. The "Airline that cares".

MARY JO & GEORGE "AL" PUTMAN, 403rd, want LARRY HICKEY to send their pictures back, NOW! Do you hear me, LARRY, NOW!

DAVE GUINN, 64th, is getting his Piper & Stinson repainted. He's also freshening up some of his older cars. Needs 10 43rd bumper stickers. Let the world know about us, DAVE. Thanks for the nice donation for our new Flag.

WAYNE CALDWELL, 403rd, must be one of our youngest members. He will retire in June of '92. For now, he is covered up. Keep up the good work, but save a little go-power back for retirement. We need you. Lots of us are running out of gas.

RICHARD & NELLIE FOX, 63rd, couldn't make St. Louis. They were in Hawaii for 10 days. 50th Wedding Anniversary. RICHARD, you may have had the best deal. They will see us in Norfolk. He was on the crew with MURRY SCHULTZ & ARTHUR ALOFSON. MURRY'S address is in the '90 roster, but I don't have ARTHUR'S address. Either MURRY or the '91 roster will have it.

PATSY & HARLEY HAYDEN, 65th, got shut out on St. Louis reunion, but haven't missed many. All set for Norfolk. Langley Field is where HARLEY started, and, of course, where the 43rd started 50 years ago. HARLEY sent a newspaper clipping on the service's at Arlington National Cemetery for ten Airmen killed in New Guinea on the 20th of December, 1942, in a B-24D. They were returning from a recon mission and attempting to land at Jackson Strip when they hit a mountain. They were Lt. JOHN M. RAFFERTY, Lt. ERIC J. DAY, Lt. CLARENCE B. O'BEIRNE JR., Lt. WILLARD F. WRIGHT, S/Sgt. CONRAD W. WAHL, S/Sgt. ROBERT M. DOREY, S/Sgt. ALEXANDER ZILBERT, Sgt. WALTER P. SZELIGA, and Sgt. HENRY M. VIGNEAULT, Sgt. All were returned in a single casket. May their souls rest in peace.

CLYTIE & RUSSELL SEDERBERG, Hdqrs., missed St. Louis. Must be too close to Jefferson Barracks. RUSS filled me in on his introduction to the U.S. Army Air Corp. First day was 22nd of January, 1941. A trip from Omaha to St. Louis, tent city, WWI uniforms, cold, cold, 4:00 A.M. roll call, etc. Finally off to Langley and then Bangor, and you know "the rest of the story".

WALTER L. LOONEY, 403rd tail gunner on WRIGHT'S crew, sent word of RICHARD STEVENSON'S passing on the 5th of December, 1990 in Mammoth, IL. RICHARD'S address was Route 2 Mammoth, IL, 61462.

JOHN L. LANDT, 63rd, just learned of the passing of his tent mate, FAY MC HALE back in 1980. FAY was in 63rd Administration. JOHN felt SKEETER MEADE and others would want to know.

ROBERT DEWITT, 63rd, served in the Sea Hawks from Nadzab to the end of the war. Didn't find much in the November Newsletter about his time. BOB, maybe the old timers just write more. He talked to ED DREA, 823 Pauline St., Taylorville, Ill. 62568. ED was BOB'S radio operator. BREEZY will send him a newsletter and see if he wants to invest \$10.00 in a good deal. BOB did recall JIM PETTUS and an event that happened when he was tower officer at Tacloban. JIM was checking on



everyone, and stopped by the tower. As you will recall, that was one busy air strip. Along with JIM'S arrival came a B-25 from the Air Apaches. One engine out and lots of holes. Two young 2nd Lt.'s crawled out and JIM told them if they couldn't get their plane fixed and out of there in two hours, he would have it pushed in the Bay. Just no room. The pilot popped to and said "Sir, you can have the S.O.B. right now. And that's the way it was a while back.

SAM WELBURN, 64th, says he, GEORGE CRITSIMILIOS, and their pilot, HARRY STEVENSON & WIFE BARBARA met at Williamsburg, VA in October for a four day get together. Must have been great fun.

Capt. Neville Sonner, USAF, reports the passing of his father, LUKE B. SONNER JR., 403rd, in March of 1990. Capt. Sonner wanted LUKE'S many friends to know. Thank you for advising us.

ROBERT L. "SHEP" SHEPPARD, Hdqrs., in Florida for a while, hopes to see "SPIKE" WOOLLEY. Also talked to DON WILBER. SHEP says see you in Norfolk.

HELEN BAUDER, widow of BILL BAUDER, 64th pilot, tells of BILL'S passing in 1986, and says she enjoys the newsletter very much. She sent a nice check to help on the postage. BILL named his B-24 for his wife, "HELEN'S REVENGE". It's very nice to have you with us. DALE BARR, HELEN lives in your town, call her and thank her for the postage.

LEROY ESTERGARD, 403rd, lost his wife, MAUREEN on the 10 of October, 1989. LEROY, we all send our love and regrets, God Bless.

H.T. "ACE" HASTINGS sent in a correction on the story of his excellent gift to his city. The statue is located at the Grayson County Airport, Denison, Texas. Really a hell of a mistake for a boy that was born in Sherman. Seems like all those towns are in walking distance of each other. ACE, I also knew General ROGER RAMEY and his lovely wife. Knew they were from Denton. I just Screwed it up, guess I'm trying to get GEORGE WHITE to fire me.

VINCENT C. STOPCZYNSKI, Hdqrs., found one of us through a notice in the V.F.W. Magazine. WALTER LOONEY, 616 S. 4th Street, Iola, KS 66749. WALTER was in the 403rd. He and wife HELEN meet with BILL SUNKLE & WIFE, ALAN CURTIS & WIFE, RICHARD STEVENSON & WIFE, NEVRA MILLIKEN & WIFE, at the MILLIKEN'S house in Beaver. They all wonder what might have happened to the rest of the crew, EDGAR GOSSET, DONALD EMBERT, & BUSS TEEM. This bunch wants to make a Reunion. OK OK fellows, get them signed up and on their way to Norfolk. What would be a better time than the 50th Anniversary of the 43rd in Norfolk.

WALTER "DUTCH" OSENBAUCH, 64th, has notes in his diary on B-24 crash on take off, the 4th of April, 1944. Lt. PAPWORTH was A/C. He thinks he survived. He has no other information. Thanks for your help, DUTCH.

PAUL J. BLASEWITZ, 63rd, sends in crew members names on J. R. GLYER'S crew, Flt/Engr STUART BLOOMFIELD, waist gunners PAUL DEBRY & BOB SMITH, tail gunner TOM SMITH. BOB SMITH was PAUL'S best man, New York, 1944. PAUL, was on Capt. BYRD'S crew. He also flew with some with RALPH DE LOACH.

HUGH HIMES, Hdqrs., A charter member of the 43rd, is looking forward to the reunion at Norfolk. HUGH reminds me that's where it all started.

SUE EDWARDS, wife of CHARLES "CHUCK" EDWARDS, 65th, reports his passing the 13th of October, 1990 in San Antonio. CHUCK helped put on the 1st reunion in San Antonio that started this Association off in 1981. SUE, we join in your sorrow. May God bless and keep you.

ALTON "DOUG" LEAMAN, 65th, reminds us he still has a few pictures of the Mareeba Memorial left. They are beautiful. \$2.50 each. 6666 Cornell Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46220. Also, DOUG sent FDR's remarks "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we, forget in time that men have died to win them." Very timely today.

JOHN "JACK" FAERBER, 65th, is now conducting tours for 43rd folks through his beautiful part of the world, Newport, RI. Drove by to see the Vanderbilt's place, etc. When you get to Snyder, JACK, I'll show you the townships of Ira, Camp Springs, Dunn, and etc. Be a good boy.

LOIS & LARRY MAIN, 65th, are looking forward to a visit from ANDY & DOROTHY BUROCHONOCK, 65th, in January. Both couples are planning on Norfolk.

GAYLORD "VAN" VAN ETTEN, 63rd, has a question on the 19th Bomb Group. VAN flew B-29's in the Korean War, 30th Sqdn. 19th Bomb Group (H). Yes, that is the same outfit that was in the Philippines when WWII started. Japs ran them to Australia. Set up at Mareeba and flew missions from there. Returned to States - Pyote, Texas. Then back as part of the 20th AF for the Korean job.

ROBERT WHITEHEAD, 63rd, sent LLOYD a couple of pieces of a B-17. Thought he might know what it was. Then he and DORIS took off in their mobile home. If you see one from Nevada running up and down the West Coast, Honk. That's BOB & DORIS.

RICHARD H. WERTZ, 63rd, is just 300 miles from Norfolk, and ready for the reunion. He and M/Sgt. DAVID KILEY were stationed at Langley in '49. KILEY was RICHARD'S crew chief on their B-24 at Dobodura and Nadzab. Any one know anything about DAVID KILEY? If so, let RICHARD know.

ARNOLD M. HUSKINS, 65th, had a big time in St. Louis. He has a little problem with his get-along. DON & PAT WILBER, Hdqrs., took him to raise and he thanks them very much. Thanks BOB & IRENE WATSON for a perfect reunion. ARNOLD wanted to buy one of the tapes DON BAKER was selling. He was a little slow getting to DON'S table, and they were all gone. I forgot who gave them to us. (NOTE: HARRY STALEY donated them). Maybe he still has some.

ALTON "DOUG" LEAMAN has checked his records and, etc., which say on 7th of March, 1943, he was transferred from the 65th to 403rd. I guess that was when GEORGE WHITE got kicked out of the 403rd. Well DOUG, now at the reunions you will have to attend two squadron meets. DOUG is working on a map of New Guinea and New Britain showing targets, headings, etc. Will be about 4 1/2 feet square.

MARY LOIS & I sent FATHER SHEA a big box of shelled Texas pecans for Christmas. Got a nice letter back. FATHER SHEA said I was now his top all time Texan. Passed up Governor Shivers, Slingshot Sammy Baugh, Nolan Ryan, even the Alamo. Could it be that you can even bribe a Priest? FATHER SHEA, from all the 43rd, GOD BLESS YOU.

MARY LOIS joins me in saying, GOD BLESS & PRAY FOR PEACE.

SPECIAL PRELIMINARY REPORT  
FOR THE 43RD BOMB GROUP'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY REUNION  
IN BEAUTIFUL TIDEWATER VIRGINIA  
by BOB and SHIRLEY RICHARDSON

It is appropriate that we return to the birth place of the 43rd to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the organization of the 43rd at Langley Field in 1941. Our base for our eleventh reunion will be the lovely Omni International (Waterside) in Norfolk, VA. from Monday, October 21 through Sunday brunch October 27, 1991. The actual business and affairs of the reunion start on Wednesday the 23rd, but there are so many interesting places of Historical interest in this immediate vicinity that you may want to come early and/or stay later.

The Omni in downtown Norfolk is directly on the waterfront with a panoramic view of the harbor or the completely revitalized downtown Norfolk greeting you from your luxurious bedroom window. Watch as ships from all over the world ply the waters with tug boats churning alongside only a few feet away. Pleasure boats tie up at the Hotel. The meeting rooms are well appointed and quite spacious. The staff adds new meaning to "Southern Hospitality". Your slightest wish is their command. It is also the home of the Omni Dinner Theatre.

Adjoining the Omni is the Waterside Festival Marketplace with over 120 fine shops, Kiosks, Push Carts and five International Restaurants. Room Rates in this excellent Convention Center are normally in the \$150.00 range, however, during our reunion, the price for you is \$66.00 single or double occupancy including parking in the adjoining parking garage.

Our Hotel stands on part of the original 50 acres purchased from Nicholas Wise in 1660 to form the town of Norfolk. Prior to the revolutionary war, Norfolk, blessed with one of the worlds best natural harbors, was a bustling seaport exporting furs, tobacco, and timber. On January 1, 1776, the city was severely damaged by a British ship commanded by Lord Dunmore. Colonists, unwilling to let their city fall into British hands, completed the destruction by burning all remaining buildings before the British could occupy the city. The only remaining building was St. Paul's Church which, to this day has a British cannon ball stuck into the Southeastern wall. Because of the harbor and strategic location, the town was resurrected soon after the war and in 1845, became a city. Norfolk

rapidly became the largest exporter of coal in the world. However, bad luck continued to plague the city, and in 1855, an epidemic of yellow fever, brought in on a visiting ship, killed 1/3 of the population. In 1862, the city was captured by Union Forces and occupied by the Yankees for the rest of the Civil War. In 1917, the Navy moved to Norfolk, and during World War II, hundreds of families moved into the area, doubling Norfolk's population and transforming this strategic Navel Base into the largest Military installation in the World. The Military is by far the greatest source of revenue for the area.

A good part of the sites representing the early history of our Country are within a short drive. Jamestown, the first english speaking settlement in the New World, Colonial Williamsburg, restored first Capital of Virginia and seat of modern democracy. Williamsburg was the training ground for many of the Fathers of our Country including Washington and Jefferson. Yorktown is the site of the surrender of General Cornwallis to Washington.

Sight seeing opportunities abound with Colonial Williamsburg, Jamestown-Yorktown, Norfolk Naval Base and Ships' tour, Busch Gardens, Mariner's Museum, Fort Monroe, NASA Visitors Center, Douglas MacArthur Memorial, Chrysler Museum of Art, Norfolk Botanical Gardens, Hermitage Foundation Museum, Saint Paul's Episcopal church, and many, many more. Many of these are within easy walking distance of the Omni Hotel. Tours will be available on demand, with a minimum of 30 per tour.

..... MOST OF THE USUAL AND SOME OF THE UNUSUAL PLANS .....

REGISTRATION, MEMORABILIA & HOSPITALITY AREA WILL OPEN AT 10:00 AM ON MONDAY AND REMAIN OPEN EACH DAY THROUGH SATURDAY.

TUESDAY : Tours either organized or on your own. Cash bar in front of Memorabilia room 5:00 to 6:30. Dinner on your own. See list of restaurants, to be included in your registration packet.

WEDNESDAY : Tournament day, Chairmen to be announced. BRIDGE, TENNIS, GOLF. Colonial Williamsburg tour. 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Minimum 30 people % \$30.00 per person. Includes transportation, admission, and tour guide all day, tax and tips also included.

THURSDAY : 7:30 - 9:00 AM Full breakfast  
10:00-11:30 Board of Directors Meeting  
1:00 - 4:00 PM Naval Base tour. \$18.00 per person all inclusive (30 people min.). IF AVAILABLE  
5:00 - 6:00 Cash bar - Dinner on your own.  
8:30 - Squadron meetings  
8:30 - Women's meeting - Music, entertainment, door prizes.

FRIDAY : 11:00 Board buses for Langley  
12:00 Lunch at Langley Officers Club  
1:00 50th Anniversary Plaque ceremony and dedication  
2:00 Tour of Langley Base  
6:00 Virginia Theme dinner dance, cash bar, awards

SATURDAY : 7:30 Continental breakfast  
10:00 Business meeting  
Afternoon tours, visiting, relaxing

SATURDAY NIGHT, THE BEST FOR THE LAST NIGHT. THE BEAUTIFUL, LUXURIOUS 450 PASSENGER "SPIRIT OF NORFOLK" IS OURS FOR THE NIGHT. A COMPLETE BUFFET DINNER, CASH BAR, BROADWAY CALIBER REVUE, 40'S - 50'S BAND MUSIC, DANCING, AND A HARBOR CRUISE. THIS WILL BE THE HIGH POINT OF THE REUNION. WE WILL DEPART ABOUT 6:30 PM AND LEAVE RIGHT FROM THE DOCK AT THE OMNI, RETURNING AT 11:00 PM. A BROCHURE SHOULD BE WITH THIS NEWSLETTER, AND THE PICTURE DOES NOT DO JUSTICE TO THIS HUGE, BEAUTIFUL SHIP.

SUNDAY : Memorial Service  
Champagne Brunch  
Have a good trip home or where ever.

Note: These are preliminary plans, and subject to change. The Hotel, Meals, Spirit of Norfolk cruise, and Langley Visit are locked in. But we will consider any suggestions on anything else.

See you in Norfolk ---- We will have a ball or two.

Your Hosts, BOB & SHIRLEY RICHARDSON



FROM LLOYD

ADD THE FOLLOWING NAMES TO YOUR ROSTER

403RD SQUADRON

WALTER L. LOONEY  
616 S. 4TH  
IOLA, KS 66749

VINCENT MANNING  
148 PINENEEDLE DR.  
BRADENTON, FL 34210

WALTER LARSEN  
551 WADSWORTH RD.  
MIDINA, OH 44256

63RD SQUADRON

ED DREA  
623 PAULINE ST.  
TAYLORVILLE, IL 62568

JOHN W. KINGSTON  
5066 WIGHTMAN ST. #24  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92105

65TH SQUADRON

LEWIS H. DAWS  
237 N. MILLARD  
RIALTO, CA 92376

I am sorry to report the death of BILL BOLY, 65th radio operator on DUTCH EHLER'S crew. BILL died shortly after the last newsletter was put out. He had made his first and only reunion at St. Louis. He was responsible for getting me together with BOB BUTLER at our first reunion.

The Flag fund stands at \$800.00 as of the 14th of February, and we would like to thank the following for their donations, (some quite generous). We still need a little more, which I am sure we will get, but I am sending the Flag off today to have a new one made. The only difference will be substituting "GROUP" for "WING". The following, along with those of you who donate after this date, will receive a color photo of the flag when its finished.

WILLIAM GREGG SR., CLINTON LOCKAMY, RICHARD WERTZ, JOHN PERKINS, HELEN BAUDER, GLEN WASHBURN, DAVID GUINN, JOE HOWARD, FRANK PIMPINELLA, JOE WISNAK, O.K. COULTER, GILBERT SENA, ARTHUR LUTZ, HOWARD SHOMO, DELBERT SMITH, HARRY SMITH, FOLMER SOGAARD, EDWIN WOJDAK, IRL LAIRD, DAVID FERGUSON, GEORGE MUNSELLE, HENRY DAY, LEE CASON JR., CHUNKY WILFERT, HARRY URBAN, LLOYD BOREN and BILL WILSON.

Your donations are appreciated, and I am sure you will be proud of the Flag. It, along with the Wing Flag will be on display at every reunion starting with Norfolk.

BOB WATSON has advised me that Marsha, of Marsha's Photography has gotten all the ordered vidio tapes of the St. Louis reunion mailed out. However, if you have not received yours, you can contact her at 314-353-0804, or contact me. The tapes are \$32.00 and 8X10 squadron photos are \$11.00, 4X6 at \$4.00. The vidio tape runs approximately one hour and forty minutes.

Speaking of BOB WATSON, I am sure those of you who know BOB were aware that he was to have more serious surgery January 30th. You will be happy to hear that he came through with flying colors, and is home now in good shape. He's one guy who, in less than one year, has had more troubles than most of us in a lifetime. Glad you are up and around, BOB.

Received a nice letter from ARTHUR "FLETCH" FLETCHER, 65th C/O. The article about ACE HASTING'S tape on the Bismarck Sea Battle newsreel brought to mind his missions during that battle. He was lead element for the 65th, and was holding for JIM EASTER'S element to rejoin him after crossing the Owen-Stanley range through heavy clouds. Lt. EASTER was hit by zeros and he was mortally wounded. He recalls that JIM was a great guy and had previously been his co-pilot when he first joined the 43rd. JIM flew many missions with the 65th. JIM'S co-pilot who brought the plane back to Dobadura, badly disabled, and with other wounded aboard, did a really fine job.

FLETCH is wondering if anybody can tell him who was flying with him, as co-pilot, when the windshield was blown out while skip bombing a ship in Hansa Bay. It was his first mission in combat, as it was FLETCH'S job to take as many crews as possible on their first combat mission. When the windshield went, they were at redline airspeed, and FLETCH fell sideways with his bloody head laying in the co-pilot's lap. HARRY HAWTHORNE, squadron C/O at the time, was back in the waist manning a gun when it happened, and came forward to replace FLETCH. If anybody can remember the crew he was flying with that day, he would like to contact them

if they come to the Norfolk reunion. FLETCH says he is embarrassed to have forgotten the name, but he flew with a different crew on almost every mission. If any of you think of the name, contact FLETCH. He will be at Norfolk.

One of our Associate members, RICHARD D. KING, 3228 N.W. 60th St., Corvallis, OR 97330, 503-752-8628, is still looking for the crew of a pilot friend of his, and to date has located seven of the ten crew members or their relatives. He still needs to locate WILLIAM T. MILLER, ROBERT F. MILLER & EUGENE E. HIRT. They were in the 403rd, and their pilot was AL BEYERLEIN. Contact RICHARD if you can help in any way. This guy is one of the few Associate Members who pay dues.

JACK FAERBER, 65th, sent money for a St. Louis cap, and, as usual, writes a very nice letter about his activities. JACK, your letters are never boring.

BILL AMACHER, 63rd, writes that he is sorry they didn't make St. Louis after hearing from S.L. FLINNER about the good time they had. Says there are 8 members of their crew still living, and he and FLINNER are trying to get all of them to show up at Norfolk. It would be nice, none of us are getting any younger.

HARRY URBAN, 403rd, sent a nice letter along with a Flag donation. Says his health is now under control. Sent a clipping which should bring some fond memories to all those of us who made the Colorado Springs reunion. The newspaper clipping is advertising the "FLYING W WRANGLERS" in concert with the "COLORADO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA" at the Pikes Peak Center. HOW ABOUT THAT!! HARRY & RACHEL are very special to us, and we hope they are able to make Norfolk.

Had a nice letter from BOB BYRNE, 403rd. He really enjoyed the St. Louis reunion, and thinks we may have found a home with the Marriott Chain. BOB is looking forward to the Langley reunion even though he joined the Group at Bangor. He recalls them getting the old B-18's that Britain was using in the war in Europe, 1940-41. In fact, they had a couple of crack-ups at Bangor in the training phase. Will see us in Norfolk.

Received a letter with enclosures and a phone call from JOHN D. EDMISTEN JR. concerning the 43rd Bomb Group B-24 crash at Nadzab on April 3, 1944. First, let me correct his address. it is Rt. 6, Box 900, Live Oak, Florida 32060. I had it wrong in the prior newsletter.

He is trying to locate the five men who were rescued by JOE "DOC" MONTUORE, of the 92nd Airdrome Squadron, before the plane blew up. "DOC" has finally been awarded the AIRMAN'S MEDAL (equivalent to the SOLDIER'S MEDAL), for his heroic action. Anyone knowing the names of the survivors, please contact JOHN.

JANICE OLSON, daughter of CHARLES "CHICK" OLSON, 64th deceased, sent in a life membership in memory of her father. What a nice sentiment.

STUART BROWN, 403rd, Lockport, NY, writes that the Air & Space Museum that was built in Amhurst, north of Buffalo, has been down graded to a skating rink and recreation building. Sad. Also states that Channel 23 in Buffalo has a channel for Veterans, and they have a Reunion Hotline where reunions are given publicity. I have added their name to my mailing list of Veteran's Magazines. Thanks, STUART. A large part of our membership has come from these reunion notices which are placed each year. Some of the calls have come from Veterans who found the add in magazines several years old at Veterans Hospitals.

Several newsletters back, I wrote about HENRY "HANK" DAY and the terrible accident he was in. He has recovered sufficiently to drive a motor home through the South West on a photography tour and a visit to the 380th "Flying Circus" reunion at Colorado Springs. He is planning a trip to Norfolk for our reunion. Knowing what kind of shape HANK was in after that accident, he's lucky to be alive. HANK is 64th.

JIM HARCROW, writes that wife BERT had a nasty fall November 11th, suffering a concussion, but has now recovered enough to drive, and they plan to see everyone in Norfolk. JIM (along with a lot of us) would like to see "DOC" BRYANT, GEORGE SHAKO and some other old 65th guys show up in Norfolk. He sends a special message to DUTCH EHLERS, they have enlarged the golf course at Eglin AFB to 36 holes, and he is gunning for you.

ROBERT "BOB" WHITE, 65th, writes that their kids gave them an audio tape entitled "War Chronicles - Air War in the Pacific". He took one look at the picture on the front of the tape, and knew he had seen the picture before. It was from his copy of "Menace from Moresby", same picture. He enclosed a clipping entitled "Distinguished Unit Citation", 449th Bomb Squadron (M). "The weather

was so turbulent during the Los Negros operation that the 449th would have been justified in turning back. But, realizing that successful landings depended on effective air cover, the crews continued, and with expert piloting and navigation entirely on instruments, was the only squadron to get through and prepare the way for ground assault." February 29th, 1944. Well, they were not the only ones to make it. Six planes from the 43rd Group made it - 3 from the 65th, and 3 others, squadron unknown. Three of them circled around after they dropped their bombs and went down to strafe. BOB says it's about time the 43rd got credit for some of the things they did.

ANOTHER REMINDER: We still have the round 5th AF - 43rd BG lapel pins @ \$5.00, caps @ close-out \$5.00 (mention reunion), bumper stickers @ \$1.50, Group jacket patches @ \$10.00, 65th (B-17) patches, 403rd patches, both B-17 & b-24 63rd patches, all \$10.00 each, and 5th AF shoulder patches and Army Air Force shoulder patches, both \$5.00 each.

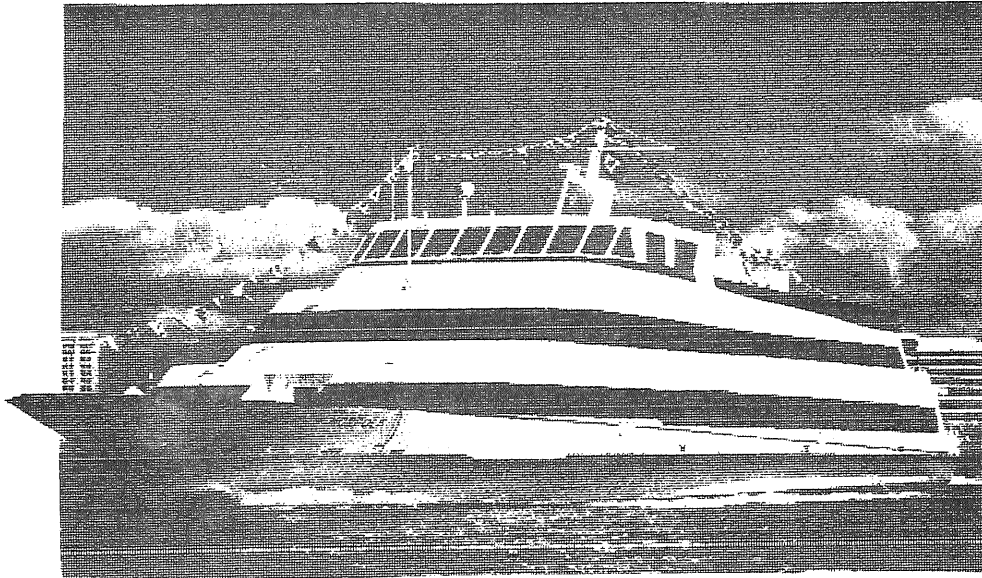
Remember our Armed Forces in your prayers,

BILL and MARY LOIS WILSON  
President  
Drawer M  
Snyder, Texas 79549  
Phone (915) 573-6784

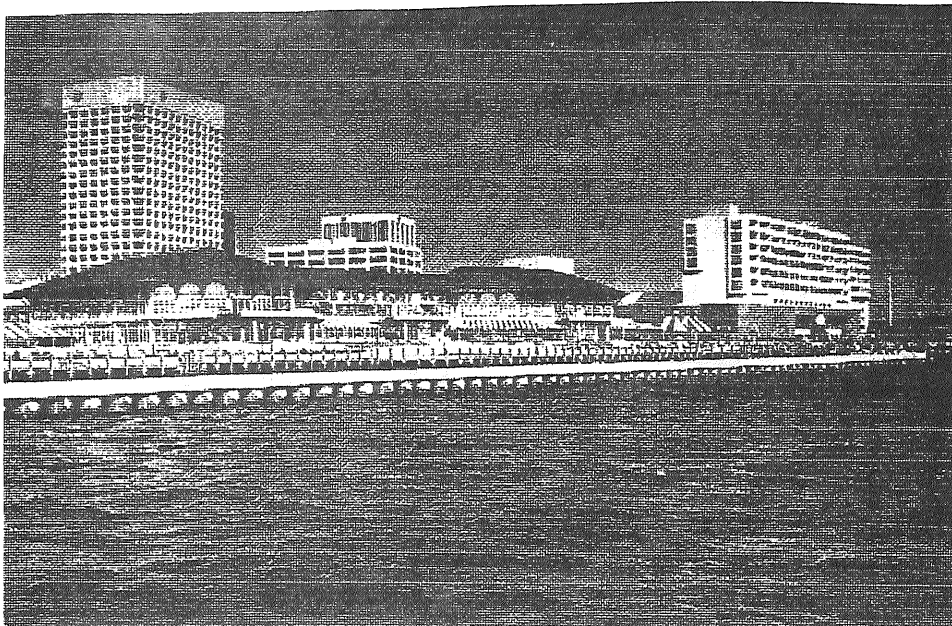
LLOYD and HELEN BOREN  
Secty - Treasurer  
102 Beechwood  
Universal City, TX 78148  
Phone (512) 658-5978

BOB and SHIRLEY RICHARDSON  
Reunion Chairpersons  
602 Air Park Rd.  
Ashland, VA 23005  
Phone (804) 746-7101

# Spirit of Norfolk



"THE SPIRIT OF NORFOLK" - OMNI INTERNATIONAL HOTEL on the right



WATERSIDE MALL (BLACK DOME) - OMNI HOTEL ON THE RIGHT