

FORTY THIRD BOMB GROUP ASSN. INC.

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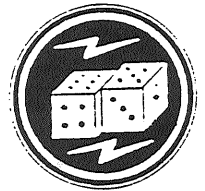
64th Sqdn.



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43RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER
42ND EDITION, FEBRUARY 1992, Lloyd Boren editor

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!: Check the label on the front of this newsletter. After your name will come the year you are paid for. If you are not paid for 1992, or it is blank after your name, this will be the last newsletter you will receive until you are paid up. Dues are \$10.00 per year, and due now for 1992.

FROM DALE BARR

Well, here I go with my first newsletter. I know it won't be as clever as BILL WILSON'S, but I will try hard to make it as interesting as I can ... Speaking of BILL WILSON, I want to be the first to congratulate him on the great job he did as President of our Group Assn. It will be tough to follow in his shoes .. (never wore cowboy boots in my life, maybe I can use that as an excuse!) I only hope that I can measure up to half the job BILL did. THANKS BILL FROM ALL OF US.

The first letter to answer comes from the 63rd, LOU "MICKEY" MIKLOS, informing me that he had talked to my ball-turret operator, ARMAND "MOUCH" MANCINI, 403rd, and he is doing fine ... (then how come he wasn't at the last reunion?) MOUCH try and make the Queen Mary this year. We are giving you enough notice so there can't be any excuses ... OK??

Got a nice letter from down/under from Roger Marks who is writing a book titled: "QUEENSLAND AIRFIELDS WWII -- 50 YEARS ON" should be about 250 pages for Australian \$25.00 ... anyone interested, drop me a note and I'll send you all the info I have.

Received some beautiful pictures from BOB ROCKER, Pompano Beach, Florida. Would you believe it, B-25s, P-38s, P-36s, and "Enola Gay", but not one picture of the planes that won the war, Ahem! B-17s and B-24s ... anyway, he wants to know if the 43rd bombed Cyclops airstrip on April 12, 1944 at Hollandia, or did we bomb other strips in the area and not Cyclops ??? Anyone out there who can answer his questions?

Happy to hear from CHUCK DOWNER, and his beautiful wife MIDGE. The 403rd men will be happy to know that CHUCK had successful eye surgery and is getting along fine ... Must have seen too much on their 47 day boat trip around South America.

My thanks to PERCY ALEXANDER for reporting to the mini-reunion members of the 13th Recon - 403rd Bomb Squadron about the successful reunion of the 43rd Bomb Group at Norfolk, VA. Incidentally, may I congratulate DANA DAVIS on his election to the Presidency of that mini-reunion Assn. (The 403rd holds a mini-reunion every year at Aurora, NE.)

Received congratulations from my old bombardier, HARRY URBAN (he was responsible for the wonderful reunion we had recently in Colorado Springs). HARRY, I still say, "If you could make Colonel, I should have stayed in, I'd be a 5 star General." .. When HARRY'S crew, piloted by JACK WILSON (Lincoln, NE.), joined the 403rd at Iron Range, they were already combat tested as they had a delay in

route, stopping on their way from Hawaii to Australia, to help the Marines landing at Guadalcanal, plus engaging a Jap naval task force, and getting a wing spar shot out by ack ack. More congratulations, from my old adjutant of the 403rd, DENNIS LOMBARDI, who busted me more than once ... my mother could never understand how I'd be a Private in one letter home, then Sgt., then Private again.

Allen Stover, commander of the "Veterans of Underage Military Service" is asking for help in locating any service men who served at any time under the age of 17. If you know of anyone that did, let us know. (It can't be GEORGE WHITE, he was old when we booted him out of the 403rd.)

PAUL F. PUCHALSKY, 63rd, is asking for help in locating an old 63rd patch that has a black feathered hawk with a lightning bolt held in it's beak ... think it was a triangular patch. Any of you guys in the 63rd that can help him, drop PAUL a line, OK?

RUSS SEDERBERG, Hdqrs., sent his dues in along with some info on his trip from Langley to Bangor, ME. After some time at Bangor, he was sent to Boston to board the Queen ... that doesn't sound right, maybe I'd better rephrase that, ha ha! I'll bet we see him at the 50th Anniversary on the Queen, right RUSS.

Sad Note from JOSEPH D. HOWARD, 64th, ... he lost his wife, ALICE December 3, 1991 ... All the prayers of the Group are with you JOE. Our history book will owe a lot to JOE, as he was one of those special kind that kept a daily diary of his military life. This, along with photos, is helping to make our history book more accurate. JOE was a member of ALLEN LINDBERG'S crew that ditched Oct. 29, 1942.

Good news from PAULINE PEELING, wife of GARNETT PEELING, 65th. On Dec. 2, 1991, GARNETT had a quadruple by-pass, is home now, doing well. Hey, GARNETT, see you on the Queen Mary, we can compare scars ... I'm getting some new knees Valentine's day.

I need a special favor from all you old timers that went from Langley to Bangor to Boston (Queen Mary). Drop a line to LEN NYGARD, 63rd, he wants to hear from you. So far, he has only found 6 members from the original Langley bunch ... I'm sure there must be more ... drop him a line.

A note received from CHRISTOPHER SLONE, 403rd, excusing him from the Norfolk reunion because of health and business reasons. We will accept this note from home, this time ... but we expect to see you on the Queen Mary this year. (Hey, LLOYD, how's that for building up attendance?)

Thanks to all you guys who are sending in your dues ... especially MANUEL ALEXOPOULOS, 63rd. Along with his dues he sends regards to 63rd members, JAME CONWAY & BILL LAIRD.

ROGER SULLIVAN, 403rd, wants to hear from any of the squadron members who were in the 403rd from Aug. 1943 to Aug. 1944 (Port Moresby to Biak) .. ROGER, the mailman at your house will be asking for more pay. Do it 403rd.

DAN MC KIRNAN, 63rd, is sending us pictures of Ferret and Snooper B-24s. He, and AL RUEDY were the project RCM officers for Ferret # 11. They arrived in the 63rd squadron Jan. or Feb. 1945. I'll have to bone up on this talk as I went home i 1944 and out of the service in 1945. I thought the war was over when I went home. I don't understand what RCM, Ferret and Snooper means ... Have you guys given all this info to LARRY for use in our history book?

63rd, member, RICHARD MONTGOMERY dropped us a note telling us how wonderful it is to be able to walk again without pain ... he had two new knees put in ... now there's no excuse for not showing up at our reunions, is there, DICK. See you on the Queen Mary, OK?

To those of you who might have some doubts about placing our plaques around the world, this letter may alleviate some of your concerns. SAMUEL WELBORN, 64th, writes of taking a group of Boy Scouts to the Air Force Academy for a tour. While there, he showed them our plaque and explained the "Wall". They were very impressed. He thanks all the members and wants us to continue our good work ... Thanks, SAM, on behalf of all the members.

JESSE FULTON, 64th, sent his apology for not attending the Norfolk reunion

because his wife, DOROTHY broke her foot. JESSE, do you know that anyone showing up at our reunions on crutches or in a wheel chair, gets special attention from all the members in attendance. So, in the future, we will not accept broken bones as a reason for not attending our reunions. I'm just kidding JESSE, but you really did miss a good reunion. HUGH & DOT JONES, 63rd, did a bang up job. See you on the Queen Mary.

To all the aircraft maintenance personnel of the 65th squadron, Crew Chief ALTON HOWARD would like to hear from you. He's lonely! One reason for that is that he has never attended a reunion of the 43rd Group. (Note from Lloyd: I would be willing to bet that the one group having the largest attendance at our reunions would be Crew Chiefs.) So when you write to ALTON, be sure and tell him of the comradeship we share at the reunions, maybe we can get him out to the Queen Mary. Seriously, I'm sure he'll enjoy hearing from anyone in the 65th ... Notice our roster has him listed in the 64th which is in error by the letter I just received. This has now been corrected.

Received a nice letter from ROBERT J. BYRNE, 403rd, and a newspaper clipping from Bangor, ME. telling about the search for the crash site of a B-18 that killed the first two members of the 43rd Bomb Group in WWII. In the same letter, he notified us of the death of LOUIS LE BLANC, 63rd, 2-19-91, Thanks for letting us know, and am happy you'll be with us on the Queen Mary. To those of you who don't know, the 403rd went thru the Panama Canal to Melbourne on the USS Argentina, a cruise ship re-fitted for troop transporting. The 403rd landed in Feb. of 1942.

HUGH GLOVER, 63rd, was too ill to attend the reunion at Norfolk, writes his wife, RUBY. They will try to attend in the future ... she enclosed HUGH'S dues and money for a copy of the President's letter to the 43rd Group. To those who haven't seen or read this letter. it's worth the dollar and then some ... I have mine framed and hanging on the wall, and I think it attracts the most attention of any memorabilia I have. LLOYD has copies available.

MAX AXELSEN, 403rd, will want to know that WALTER KICHURA, 403rd, sends him his regards. WALT, has missed the last three reunions because of his wife's serious illness. Drop him a line, MAX and pep him up.

Received a nice letter from the wife of JOHN ASHBY, 65th, informing us of a book she and JOHN kept, showing all the planes of the 65th squadron and that it had been stolen. But, as a native Aussie, she sent what recollections she had of JOHN'S stations in Australia and New Guinea ... Boy, would LARRY HICKEY love to have that book for our group history. He needs all the info he can get concerning the planes of the 43rd. (Note from Lloyd: this is probably "Down Under".)

Just got informed by JAMES H. MAYMAN, 65th, that he was the one who painted the B-17, "Naughty, but Nice". Are there any other painters out there?? If there are, drop a line to LARRY HICKEY, author of our group history.

Correction!!! Last newsletter, it was reported that GEORGE ANDERSON, 403rd, wrote that MERO CHLUDIL, 403rd, was looking for the crew on the Ballakpapan mission ... WRONG MISSION, it was the Belate Pass mission in the Phillipines on the Island of Luzon. Two B-24s hit two nearby peaks ... Gosh, I hope I don't get called on ... my missions and war service gets better every reunion I attend ... I just have to be careful the censor (my wife) isn't around when I'm extolling how we won WWII.

Received dues from WARREN DITZLER, 64th, and also received extra membership fee to be used for any member of the 64th squadron who cannot afford the membership fee. This was done in memory of the late JOSEPH MURRAY, 64th. JOE was shot down in 1943 and was WARREN'S brother-in-law. It would be nice if any members of the 64th who knew JOSEPH MURRAY would send regards to WARREN along with any of your memories of JOE.

RICHARD C. HEMPHILL, 65th, would like someone to send him an accurate list of all the moves and dates between Mareeba and Leyte of the 43rd Group. I'm sure someone out there will send you this info, but if they don't, I suggest you write to our author LARRY HICKEY. I'm sure he has it for our 43rd history book

Received dues and a nice letter from ELWYN HANSEN, 403rd, explaining why they didn't attend our last reunion ... He did get to see some of his old buddies in the 403rd when he attended the mini-reunion of the 13th recon - 403rd sqdn. at

Aurora, NE. last fall. He also had a nice visit with ORVAL BRABANDER, in Phoenix, AZ. Say, ORVIL, when will we see you at one of these reunions?

Nice Christmas greetings and a check for her dues from MARCIA BRENNEMAN, authoress of an outstanding book on one of our group's heroes ... Thanks, Marcia, see you on the Queen Mary, maybe, huh??

WATHEN F. CODY, 63rd, is asking about an old friend who was radio operator on Major SCOTT'S crew. If anyone knows anything about GARAFOLA or his whereabouts, please drop CODY a line.

Here's a name out of the past for all you 403rd members ... HENRY "HANK" TEITELBAUM, is looking for any info on DUTCH DUBINSKY who worked in operations at the 403rd. I remember HANK at his first reunion of the 403rd held in Denver, Colorado in 1952. ... HANK, have you been to any reunions since then??? As far as the request for information, numbers 24 thru 34, write us the whole synopsis, no matter how long it will be ... we need this info for our history book ... Please take time to do this, however, I suggest that you get in touch with our author, LARRY HICKEY, in Boulder Colorado before you start, maybe he already has some of your knowledge, so you won't have to write so much then ... but we really want your input badly. Long or short.

My old ditching pilot, JEAN JACK, 403rd, just sent me a copy of a couple of WWII antidotes which I find very interesting. I'm glad he has sent a copy to LARRY HICKEY, it concerns a story about Mc Arthur at the 507th parachute drop at Nadzab, and the supplying of some forgotten troops in New Guinea. If anyone wants to read about a couple of snafus that haven't been reported before, contact JEAN.

FRANK HOHMANN, 65th, sent LLOYD BOREN a clipping from the Mountain Lakes, N.J. newspaper telling about the death of "LUCKY STEVENS", 64th. A lot of the 64th members will remember that LUCKEY was shot down on his first mission, Dec. 15, 1942, then came back to fly 155 missions in B-24s, earning himself the DFC with 7 clusters. I'm sure that his wife GLADYS would like to hear from his buddies in the 64th Squadron. (Note from Lloyd: LUCKY had friends in every squadron in the Group.)

Another sad note is the notification of the death of THOMAS ROTE, 63rd, on Sept. 25, 1991. Thank you GEORGIA, for letting us know, and our hearts and best wishes go out to you in your time of sorrow. I am finding that this kind of reporting is the hardest job of all.

Just a note to MARK CARRELL, 65th, thanking you for the info on the six RAAF combat crews assigned to the 65th while at Nadzab for training on our B-24s. Also, MARK sent in some photo's of "Lucky Lucille", and "Target for Tonight" with JOE ESPOSITO standing beside it, showing off 58 missions and 3 downed zero's. MARK, I'm taking the liberty of sending your letter and pictures to LARRY HICKEY to make sure he has this info, ok?

Received a letter from GEORGE WEICHLEIN, 65th, telling us he plans to attend our bash on the Queen Mary, and that he's sorry he missed Norfolk ... was building a new house ... We will be happy to see him at Long Beach and hear all about the new house.

From Douglas, NE (right in my back yard), comes a letter from GERALD EGGER, 63rd. Heck, I had the idea that all Nebraskans were in the 403rd ... How did this guy escape from the rest of us Nebraskans? Anyway, GERALD, drop a note to "BREEZY" BOREN explaining your problem with your registration fee. I'm sure that if anything can be done, LLOYD will do it, ok?

To all the former members of the 43rd Group who up to this date have not attended any reunion, I quote verbatim from GEORGE TUCHOLSKI'S letter to LLOYD BOREN, our Secty/Treas. "Thanks to all for a great time. It was the FIRST reunion I have attended, and most certainly will not be my last... God willing." And he enclosed his 92 dues ... See ya on the "Queen Mary".

Notice: The Selman Field Historical Association would like to hear from anyone of the 1942-45 vintage era who passed thru Selman Field, Monroe, LA. You can write them at P.O. Box 14962, Monroe, LA 71207-4962

Flight engineer JAMES WARREN, 65th, sent in his dues and those of a friend, and

was sorry he couldn't make Norfolk (he only had his 2nd triple by-pass). I guess, since it's his 2nd, we can overlook him missing the Norfolk reunion, but we want you to know that we won't accept the 3rd by-pass as an excuse to miss the Queen Mary.

JIM DALY, 64th, was sorry he couldn't make the Norfolk reunion because of bad eye-sight, but he promises to make the Queen Mary "come hell or high water". He was kind enough to notify us of the death of WALTER "SPATS" ANDREWS last July in Columbia, Miss., also of the 64th.

One of the old pilots from the 63rd, N.J. "JOE" HIRSH, wrote a very nice letter to HELEN & LLOYD BOREN. In it, he mentioned that he was married at Kelly Field by "COACH" FR. SHEA, Hdqrs. That reminded me of how much we missed the "COACH" at the last couple of reunions, and hope we can see him at the future reunions. Does anyone ever remember playing cards with the "COACH"? I bet that brings back some memories. JOE you'll be surprised at the number of "oldies" that still come to our reunions.

HOWARD LEROY SPILLYARDS, 65th, sent in his 1992 dues and money for a hat, and is sorry he can't attend any of our reunions because of ill health. HOWARD, I'm giving you almost a years notice to get well enough to come to the Queen Mary in November. HOWARD, did you know a GEORGE ALLISON, 403rd supply Sgt.?? GEORGE has passed away, but his wife still lives in Pine Bluff, and is an associate member of the 43rd BG Association.

Speaking of associate memberships, LLOYD BOREN received a nice letter from ANNE LEE WARNER, Double Bay, N.S.W., Australia, telling him what a wonderful time she had at the Norfolk reunion, and that she hopes to see him and HELEN on the Queen Mary. Now that is what I call "DEVOTION" ... It's one thing to come from Australia as a former member of the 43rd Bomb Group, but to come all that distance for an associate member, is something else ... ANNE, please make yourself known to me at the Queen Mary reunion, I want to shake your hand. My wife and I know what a drag that 18 hours of flying is ... We thought we'd never land at Sydney.

I want to thank JOHN "JACK" FAERBER, 65th, for his pre-war observations and the newspaper he sent me, but JACK, I'm an Air Force man, I don't understand any of the Navy lingo ... If you don't get your new roster from LLOYD, drop him a line, ok? I'll see you on the Queen Mary, and that's as close as I'm going to get to the Navy. (I can't swim).

I am listing, later in the newsletter, an information sheet showing all the specially discounted airfares for your travel to the Group reunion on the Queen Mary in Long Beach. I think it is self explanatory, however, if you have any questions, please feel free to call me or call direct to Prime Travel, using the 800 number listed on the information sheet.

Keep in mind, that if you have already purchased you tickets thru Prime Travel, and the airlines come out with a special fare that is below your ticket cost, the airlines will refund you the difference See ya in Long Beach!

WHEW!!! I just finished answering 52 letters, and I hope LLOYD has enough paper to print all the answers. Now I can understand how our newsletter costs have gone up ... Yet, it's this communication that holds all of us together as one, and keeps everyone informed as to what is happening in the 43rd Bomb Group Association.

FROM LLOYD

ADD THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR ROSTER:

HEADQUARTERS - DONALD E. GRIMES	63rd-RUSSELL DUBLIN	HENRY J. PORTER III
3204 ARNOLD	18629 HIGH PARKWAY	2909-701 HIGHLAND AVE. S.
TOPEKA, KS 66614	ROCKEY RIVER, OH 44116	BIRMINGHAM, AL 35205

64TH SQUADRON - FRANCIS J. MC BRIDE	GEORGE R. TUCHOLSKI	ROBERT L. SCHULTZ
510 FRANKLIN AVE.	16630 BRINBOURNE	858 CEDAR DRIVE
PHOENIXVILLE, PA 19460	MIDDLEBURG HTS, OH 44130	LOVELAND, OH 45140

ROY S. ROWLETT
BOX 297
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

65TH SQUADRON - LAWRENCE H. GILROY FRANCIS "FRANK" TUCHER CHARLES G. ALLISON
408 CRESTVIEW PL. 831 N. DREXEL AVE. 927 SHARON RD.
CADILLAC, MI 49601 INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46201 SANTA ANA, CA 92706

JAMES H. BRYANT
2837 DAVIESS ST.
OWENSBORO, KY 42303

403RD SQUADRON - JOSEPH STAMLER
283 SEA FOREST CT.
DEL MAR, CA 92014

ASSOC MEMBERS - BOBBY FIELDS P. J. ROBERTS
202 S. BROADWAY P.O. BOX 52
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 LANCELIN 6044, WEST AUSTRALIA

LATE NEWS

Some time back, PAT FEILLE wrote me and suggested that we make some kind of arrangements for transportation to the South Coast Plaza Mall which is about 30 minutes away from the Queen Mary. She says this is a super place, and well worth seeing. I forwarded her letter to JOE HOLGUIN, who is in charge of the reunion, and he writes back that it looks like PAT'S suggestion is a good one, and he is trying to arrange transportation for anyone interested in a two or three hour shopping tour. Chances are real good that we will have this available on a day we have nothing scheduled. JOE is working on it. This should appeal to quite a few of our members as there are very few large shopping areas within walking distance of the Queen.

There are gift shops and plenty of speciality food shops right across from the Queen in a wharf type mall which can be reached on foot. This, in addition to the restaurants and cocktail lounges on the Queen and the English type area adjacent to the Queen.

For the many who have never been on the Queen Mary, it is floating, but anchored to the dock. It is an enormous ship, and you will find that they have kept the original paneling and fixtures more or less intact. If you are looking for a modern luxury cabin, you may be disappointed, but if you wanted to stay in a cabin (1st Class) that was home on the sea to movie stars and celebrities, you will really enjoy yourselves. Just pretend you are back in the 30's and traveling with Clark Gable, John Barrymore, Joan Crawford and Hedy Lamarr. This was the Queen of ships at that time, and it is still the symbol of the "Good Life" back then. You will walk the same floors and dine in the same massive ballroom the cream of society at that time was used to.

EDWARD ST. ONGE, 63rd, wrote recently with a question which has come up before. ED is one of several members who keep a summer time residence in the North, and spend the winters in the South. He wanted to know if there is some way his address could be changed as he switches addresses. Unfortunately, I do not know how the could be handled without a lot of extra work. There are too many in this situation. Since we are using bulk mail, the newsletters will come back to me, and it involves extra money, however, I forward the letters first class to their current address. I really don't see how we can do otherwise since it would take a lot of extra work keeping up with all the address changes, and we could never be sure the dates would be exactly right. I guess we keep doing it the way we are now. At least everyone gets their newsletter.

For a few who continually call me saying someone else has received a newsletter, and they haven't received theirs yet, please realize that every newsletter goes to the Post Office at the same time from this end. Unfortunately, every Post Office doesn't receive or forward them at the same time. I have no way of speeding up the time it takes to receive your newsletter. Once I deposit it with the local Post Office, it is out of my hands from then on.

I received a beautiful letter from EVANGELINE PRIFTI, widow of LOUIS "SWIFTY" PRIFTI, the other day, and I thought you might like to share in it. She writes, Thank you so much for sending me complimentary copies of the newsletters. I met my husband, Louis M. Prifti, after the war, and we married in 1952. I know how strongly my husband felt about the organization and how proud he was to serve in the Air Force. I, myself, was a high school student during this time, but I read this newsletter from cover to cover. It some how brings me comfort and continues to be a tie to my husband at a very important time in his life. Thank you again.

GILBERT "PANCHITO" SENA, 403rd, sent dues and some extra (which we never turn down), along with a note that they would see everybody on the Queen Mary. A real nice guy.

FRANKLIN & HELEN GREEN, 63rd, write that they enjoy short trips and 5 grand children. Then live in Dayton, Washington and love the weather up there, but are REALLY going to try to make the Queen.

PHYLLIS CHRISTIANSEN, Secty. of the 403rd Sqdn., reports a great reunion of the 403rd held in Aurora, Nebraska in September. Their next one will be Sept. 11-13, 1992 at the Youth Development Center in Aurora, so, mark your calendars as a great time is promised to all attending.

She adds a couple other notes: SHELBY GRIFFIN FAMILY wishes their photos returned that were given to someone at a group reunion a couple of years ago. Their address, 906 Ashford Parkway, Houston, TX 77077. WILLARD A. HEATH, of Boise, Idaho, 83705, would like to know if anyone in the 43rd knows any member of a B-24 Flight crew who flew for General Chenault's 14th AF in China during WW II. Contact him at 3369 Whitman Dr., Phone 208-336-5359 if you have any information.

PHYLLIS has two deaths to report: JESSE O. FOSTER of Sterling City, Texas, of cancer, and NELSON MC DANIELS, of Dayton, Ohio, of a massive heart attack.

J.C. "CHUNKY" WILFERT, 63rd, sent his usual donation to the 43rd and in a previous telephone conversation, suggested that we might consider adding 43rd Bomb Group coffee mugs to our PX. I am looking into that now CHUNKY. He apologized for the short note, but was on his way for a 10 day fishing trip to Mexico. I thought Louisiana had all the fish around North America.

JOE ESPOSITO, 65th, is another who wants to make a reunion. He is listed on the B-24 "ALL AMERICAN", as a sponsor, and when they visited Long Island recently, he was invited to tour with them, but due to his wife's illness, he had to decline. They are thinking about a European trip for the plane, and he sure would like to make that one. He has sent LARRY HICKEY answers to some of the questions direct. This is the way they should be sent, sending them to me simply delays it. He says he would sure like to meet with the old bunch and go over the "Good Old Days". There's no better place than the Queen Mary JOE.

Received a letter from Robert W. Livingstone, Aviation Journalist and Photographer, who is presently researching what he hopes to be a book on B-24 operations in Australia, concentrating on the early period before the Australian Air Force (RAAF) began its own Liberator operation from Australian soil. One of the aspects he intends to cover is that of RAAF aircrew training (both pilot and gunner) on the B-24, a role in which the 43rd featured while in New Guinea.

He writes: I would like to have an appeal for information on this from your members published in the newsletter. I believe that a book is being produced on the history of the 43rd for publication in late 1992; could I be added to the mailing list for information on this book and its release, as I would like to purchase a copy. I would also like to get in touch with the author of this history to correspond with him.

If there are any of the members of the 43rd who served with the 7th BG on LB-30's in Java, and the 19th Bomb Group in Australia, I'd very much like to hear from them also. Looking forward to a positive response from your members in the future.

Any of you having information that might help him, write to: Robert W. Livingstone, P.O. Box 4 GYMEA, NSW 2227 Australia. Tel: 0011-61(02)540-2118.

I had a letter from Steve Birdsall, author of "The Flying Buccaneers", and he is trying to get information on a particular mission which is not acknowledged by official USAAF history. The history states that the bombers were grounded by weather.

This was a 19th Bomb Group mission, 93rd Squadron, and was the Milne Bay mission of August 26, 1942.

Operational records kept by RAAF show that eight B-17s were off, each loaded with eight 500-pound bombs. All bombs were dropped.

Major Felix Hardison led, and the eight planes were:

41-2519
41-2621 Capt. Kenneth Casper - damaged, groundlooped into a tree on return, written off.
41-2660
41-2663
41-2668
41-9234 Captain John Chiles - badly shot up, bombardier Sgt Earl Snyder killed, navigator Lt David Hirsch badly wounded.
41-23454 Captain Clyde Webb - shot down by naval gunfire.
41-24391 Captain David W. Hassemer - light damage.

Steve is trying to establish the names of the other three pilots and tie them, and Hardison, to the appropriate plane numbers above. I have referred the letter to Dave Hassemer, as he has a good memory on matters pertaining to the 93rd Squadron. However, if any of you can be of help, Steve would appreciate any information you have. I was personally in the 93rd Squadron at that time, and flew several missions with Hardison, and also with Jacquet, but, I can't remember each mission. I'm getting old. Steve Birdsall's address is: 31 Parkland Road, Mona Vale 2103, Australia.

ED WOJDAK, 64th, sent an updated copy of the instructions for requesting the Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation Badge, and Philippine Liberation Medal (this latter medal will become available when they are received from Manila).

You may apply for the Badge and Medal to: Defense and Armed Forces Affairs Office, Embassy of the Philippines, 1617 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

You must include \$7.00 for shipping and handling, your request must be accompanied by a copy of your discharge papers to verify your participation in the liberation.

Those of you who have questions about the "Battle of the Coral Sea 50th Anniversary Tour" coming up in May, can contact Galaxy Tours, P.O. Box 234 Wayne, PA 19087-0234 - Phone 1-800-523-7287. This is a tour to Australia timed to coincide with the Australian ceremonies commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Coral Sea Battle which saved Australia from invasion. Most of the activities will take place in Townsville although the tour includes Sydney.

For the cap collectors in the Group, we have St. Louis and Norfolk caps available, and while they last, they will be \$5.00 each including postage. We also have copies of the President's letter read at Langley AFB for \$1.00. We have lapel pins for \$5.00, and a few 43rd Bomb Group jacket patches @ \$10.00.

Once again we are going to offer a free room @ \$72.00 a day for the reunion to some lucky person. For all those paying their registration fee of \$92.00 per person in advance, we will put your name in the pot for the drawing. You must have your registration fee in by October 15th to JOSE HOLGUIN. This worked very well at Norfolk, and one lucky member had 5 nights paid for. Getting your money in early allows us to estimate the attendance and anticipate the costs.

Along with the above, the rule is going to be the same as Norfolk, ie; No refunds after November 4th. We will have already bought your dinners, buses, music, and all the other festivities included in your registration fee. If you cancel out anytime prior to November 4th, your registration fee of \$92.00 will be returned minus \$10.00 which the Group decided would cover all the incidental expenses incurred by the Reunion Committee.

Later news about the bus trip to that fabulous Mall. JOSE HOLGUIN reports that is within sight, and we will have more in future newsletters to report. The Mall is anxious to have us, and we may be able to include it in our official program.

Received a letter and check from JOHN COOP, 403rd. JOHN lives in Australia, and was kind enough to send a check to cover extra postage on the newsletters. He did this because we send the overseas mail first class so it will be sure to get there. We certainly appreciate the help.

Received a letter from the 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation the other day. They are seeking donations for a 5th Air Force Wall they are planing at the Air

Force Academy in Colorado Springs. We were aware of this at the last reunion, but the Board of Directors decided to shelve it until more information was available. With the information at hand, we will probably take it up at the next reunion. I am speaking here, of the Group as a whole. If any of you wish to make an individual donation, you may send same to 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation, % the Treasurer, William L. Youngblood, 13901 Brown Grier Road, Charlotte, NC 28273. Your contribution is tax deductible.

At the end of this letter, we will have two forms: one for sending your reservation in to the Hotel Queen Mary, and the other to forward your reunion fees and instructions to JOSE HOLGUIN. AGAIN, WE STRONGLY ADVISE YOU TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY. Outside rooms on the Queen are first come, first serve, and all the same price. Be sure to state that you are with the 43rd Bomb Group to get our room rate. You will need to pay one nights rent or supply a credit card number. There are 350 rooms on the Queen, and we have 330 of these, but we also have a deadline, and we fully expect to take all of the 330 rooms, and have a nearby Travelodge prepared to handle the overflow. Don't get caught short.

MATT HOLOHAN, 64th, for years has been getting us new members, having added over 300 to our roster. MATT'S health has been a serious problem for several years now, and he has been unable to devote the time necessary to handle the searching. He asked me to see if we could get someone to volunteer to take over his extensive files and get the job done. At the last reunion, we had a volunteer. PAUL LEDGER, 63rd, has agreed to visit MATT in Florida and take over the job. MATT deserves a huge vote of thanks for the wonderful job he did over the years, and we hope he enjoys better health in the coming years.

We also owe our thanks to PAUL LEDGER for taking on a hard, and sometimes, thankless job for us. We appreciate it.

Had a letter from BILL LAIRD, 63rd. BILL asked me to put the following in the newsletter: "I would like to thank all the people who made our reunions possible. It took a lot of time and hard work. I also need to thank the 63rd maintenance crews and support groups for a job that was well done. It took a lot of hard work and dedication. You were a good team and I value my association with you. We made many good friends. Hope to see you at reunions."

BILL LAIRD was a big help, he also sent about 15 names of fellows in the 63rd with him, and gave their jobs in the 63rd. These were all blank in the roster section that says DUTY. We need more help like this. These have all been corrected, and will be correct on the April roster. Along this line, look closely at the Squadron Unknown section. Would you believe we actually have paid up members and we don't even have their Squadron. Come on guys, send us your Squadron, or anyone knowing their Squadron, send it to me.

Received a note from DICK & JANE HENNIG, 64th. DICK has been a little under the weather lately. Had emergency surgery in November for a ruptured appendix, and then developed pneumonia. He is coming along fine now, and is looking forward to warmer weather and the golf course to open. DICK & JANE missed the Norfolk reunion, and will probably miss the Queen Mary, but will try to see us in '93.

The 19th Bomb Group has asked us to publish the following notice in the newsletter. NOTICE!!, Members of the 19th Bomb Group Association will hold a reunion 10-15 August, 1992 in Seattle, Washington. The reunion will be in conjunction with Boeing Aircraft's B-29 50th Anniversary. Contact James A. Kiracofe, 274 Quinn Rd., West Alexandria, Ohio 45381, phone (513) 839-4441.

For you golfers, JOE HOLGUIN has arranged for the tournament to be held at the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station just a short distance from the Queen. This is a beautiful course, and ODIS CLEERE, 403rd, will be ram-rodding the tournament.

Dwight Williams, 828 Challen Circle N., Mobile, AL 36608, is looking for information on his uncle, OSCAR MILTON WILLIAMS, 403rd co-pilot, who was killed when their plane was shot down on a Rabaul mission in October 43. WILLIAMS was in a B-24, and was from Lakeland, Florida. Any information you can give Dwight would be appreciated.

ART CURREN, 64th, sent a copy of material he forwarded to LARRY HICKEY concerning 3 missions he flew as co-pilot for RAY HOLSEY. This is the kind of information we need for the book. Any of you fellows who have interesting missions need to set them down on paper and forward to LARRY. He is back working

on the book, and needs all the help he can get. ART will be with us on the Queen Mary. He has been rather tied up after being elected a Port Commissioner in Port Townsend, Washington, last year.

SPECIAL NOTICE: I was instructed at the last reunion meeting to prepare a news release which the members could insert in their local or area papers, TV, Radio, etc. I already mail, annually, a notice which is inserted in 18 publications such as American Legion Magazine, DAV, and Military publications, etc. Please insert the following in available publications, using their reunion or upcoming events section:

43rd Bombardment Group Association (WWII), 63rd, 64th, 65, 403rd, and Hdqrs. Squadrons. 12th annual reunion. The Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA. November 9-15, 1992. Contact Lloyd Boren, Secty-Treas, 102 Beechwood, Universal City, Texas 78148. Phone day, (512) 349-0664, home (512) 658-5978.

FROM BILL WILSON

I thought I was through, but have received several letters, so best answer them.

CARL & GINNY HUSTAD, 63rd, are still talking about the great time at Norfolk. Well really, thats about all they have to do with 29" of snow in Minnesota. Hope the Spring thaw works this year so they can get out in time to make the Queen. I wonder if Texas is all that bad.

SAM COMMONS from Flourtown PA had a great time in Norfolk. A real treat to see his navigator, BOB LEIBNER, and pilot, JIM PETTUS. SAM sent me a good picture (I didn't have my mouth open) of JAY LEARNER, ARTHUR FLETCHER, & ME; We three, along with many others, were very close in those early days. As my kins say "back when the dinosaurs were so bad". Thanks very much SAM.

LELAND & BERNADINE MLNARIK, Hdqrs., get a big kick out of the newsletters, and are going to be mad at me if the new boy lets down. Well LEE, if DALE keeps up his regular pace, (he loves to write letters), you will be cross eyed from reading the newsletters. LEE had a little sickness, but is back hitting on all four.

ARTHUR FLETCHER, 93rd and 65th, sent a nice Christmas note. he enjoyed Norfolk reunion very much, his first 43rd reunion. Says it was more like a family reunion. Why not? Aren't we all a family?

GINNY HUSTAD, a few years back gave me hell for not having enough time at the reunions to sit and visit. Well, we fixed that. Now its lots of fun to check on each others kids and grandkids. Maybe you are right, it's just a big family reunion.

JEAN JACK, 403rd, had a great time at Norfolk, sent me a report on one of the first parachute troop drops by the United States Army. A combined operation Australian and U.S. troop drop West of Lae in the Markham Valley. COL. HARRY HAWTHORNE, in a 43rd B-17, flew General Mc Arthur around so he could see the whole operation. Excellent report JEAN, hope we get this in our book. As always, MARY LOIS and I enjoyed seeing you.

BILL & MARY EATON, 403rd, sent Christmas greetings and a good report on their fine family. I'll miss not hearing from BILL. he worked hard trying to keep me going in the right direction. Thanks for all your help Willie.

NICK ARABINKO, 64th, sent Holiday greetings and some more of his calendar "Goodies". June 10th says, "Washing your car to make it rain doesn't work". I sure like April 6th, "Almost anything is easier to get into than out of." (DALE BARR will soon find this out). Be a good boy NICK.

HOWARD SHOMO, 64th, sent in a nice Memorial gift. Thanks HOWARD.

James Mc Clure Jr., from Maryland, called 6th January wanting to know all about the reunion on the Queen Mary this fall. His mother and daddy, "MAC" & CLARISSA MC CLURE, 65th, got a big surprise on their 50th Wedding Anniversary, a gift from Jim and the rest of the kids. An all expense trip to the 43rd Gomb Group reunion on the Queen Mary this fall. Nicest thing I've heard of in a long time. To MAC & CLARISSA'S kids, we will see that your folks have a great time.

JACK FAERBER, 65th, sent Holiday greetings to all. JACK has worked hard trying

to keep me out of trouble. So I am assigning him a new job...DALE BARR. JACK, it will be a lot easier. Be a good boy and thanks for the help.

FATHER SHEA called MARY LOIS and me to wish each of you Gods Blessings at Christmas time. He is getting along fairly well, still at St. Marys, West Hartford, CT. The "COACH" still thinks of us often. Wishes he could make the reunions, and enjoys the newsletters.

I'm sure COACH, as the good Lord looks down on you he can only say "Well done my good and faithful servant, well done". and we all add "Amen".

CARL & MARY REUTINGER, 64th, called. They want the information on the Queen Mary reunion. They made the St. Louis one, and are looking forward to this fall. CARL, the information on the Queen Mary is in this newsletter. BREEZY says there are already over 200 registered on the Queen. Get your name in the pot. This will be our best turn out, ever.

DICK & CLEO WOOD, 63rd, send best wishes to all. Also, it seems DICK isn't any smarter than me. He is still very active in his Travel Agency. Have fun DICK, and thanks for all your help.

ALTON D. LEAMAN, 403rd, better known to us as DOUG, has a question. A recent article in a WWII magazine tells of JIM ROUSEK in "Ken's Men", a B-17, knocking out the bridge at Bobadjim 20th September, 1943. Question, was this part of an attack on Lae and Salamau? Yes, I think so, DOUG and the rest of ROUSEK'S first crew went home late August 43. New Crew was co-pilot, LEONARD SYMROSKI, navigator, WILLIAM CLANCY, bombardier, HAROLD KAHLER, engineer, JACK LAWSON, radio operator, DELBERT SMITH, photographer, CHARLES RIDERNOUR, gunners, HENRY DAVIS, CHARLES DOWSE, WILLIAM DONAHUE, & ARTHUR PARENT. DOUG ended up Chief of Turret School, Buckley, Florida. He got a Christmas card from SHINE GRIFFIN saying JOEL GRIFFIN, 403rd, is back in the hospital with lung trouble. Some of you fellows send JOEL a letter. It will sure help. Thanks.

JIM PETTUS, our CO, is hard at work on the ten rolls of microfilm. The reader he has use of is much better than the ones we have used, or, perhaps he has learned how to use it. Ten reels are about 16,000 pages or more. Some job. JIM should be about through with this job, but will continue to work on our book. Please keep in mind that these early records seldom give crews names. Mostly, one B-17 went out on recon today, mission, check shipping in Bismarck Sea. So, if you will send in more information, we need it. JIM, we all thank you for your help in getting our book on track.

RALPH SCOTT, editor of Bad 2 Association (8th AF), offered to paint a picture of one of my B-17s. I finally took him up on his offer. Only picture I had of a plane we had flown missions in that showed the tail numbers, was "Hell from Heaven Men". a B-17E. Told him about the mission which was a recon to Rabaul to photo the harbor and air strips. Crew pilot was MELVILLE "DUTCH" EHLERS, co-pilot, WILLIAM WILSON, navigator, WARREN "DOC" BRYANT, bombardier THOMAS LLOYD "BREEZY" BOREN, rank: All 2nd Lt., engineer, Pfc. LOWELL D. LEE, radio operator, Pfc. ARNOLD OSBORN, gunners, Cpl. WALTER BUCHANAN, Cpl. WALT HARMON, and Pfc. MICHAEL "MICKEY" ANDRADE. This crew, as most in those early days, was loaded with rank. It was known as 65th combat crew #4. 2nd Lt. THOMAS LLOYD BOREN was officially credited with shooting down one Zero. The painting came in just after the first of the year and it is great. For a boy in the 8th AF doing a painting of a B-17E over Rabaul, it is super good. Even has BREEZY'S Zero going down in flames.

BOB BUTLER said, you never see a picture of B-17s in the 5th AF. I will take a picture of the painting and send him. Again, RALPH, thanks very much.

DALE BARR'S first letter as our new CO was to me. He says everything is ok for now. Well DALE, that will change shortly. But we are sure you will do a great job. Just keep smiling. You just re-upped for one year, and take it from me, that's enough.

DUTCH & VONNIE EHLERS, 65th, had their 50th Wedding Anniversary 27th December. MARY LOIS & I couldn't make it. Wish we could have been there. I hear it was a "Really good show" for 2 very special people.

Take care now, and God Bless.

A late article entitled "Going the Distance" by ELEUTERIO NAVA, 65th.

I arrived at the New Mexico Veterans Center on May 8, 1987. Most people around the facility know me as "Nava". When I was admitted from another long-term facility, I was totally unable to walk. I would move myself about in my wheelchair by pulling myself along the hand rails and get nowhere. Inside myself I believed I would someday walk out of here. During World War II, my Liberator bomber was forced down into the sea off New Guinea, and I helped rescue our pilots who were pinned in the aircraft. For this I received the Distinguished Flying Cross. I have done difficult things in my life, but the toughest was yet to come.

Here at this facility, I met some people who believed in me and who have really cared. First, Myrtle Moyle worked with me and got me started walking. In the swimming pool, with Anne Hatley and Johnny Portillio, I relearned how to walk. Vonnie Walton and a walker got me moving further along. This was difficult. Peggy Sue Harelson and Kay Druce kept after me and helped me with many short, yet long and hard steps. I kept track of the distance I walked. Kay kept after me and we worked and worked.

In October of 1990 I was awarded a 3-mile marker. I had walked this far. Many people might not think this is very far. People must understand that distance is relative.

In my younger days, before my accident, I was a mailman. My route was over 12 miles per day. I would get home and jog at least 5 miles per night.

I would like to thank the people here who have shown me so much effort and caring, and have helped me go the greatest distance in my life.

FROM JOSE HOLGUIN

The plans for Queen Mary 50th Anniversary reunion are going full speed ahead. You are really going to enjoy this one. For those of you who are afraid you may be out in the country on the Queen, stop worrying, the Long Beach Transit Co. has regular bus runs right in front. The Golf tournament is being held at the Los Alamitos Naval Air Station nearby. The Tennis tournament will be held at the Travel Lodge courts adjacent to the Queen, there will be transportation to a beautiful Mall for shopping or just gazing, and all other reunion activities will be held on the Queen. The Queen has 350 rooms, and we have all except 20. We are unable to get the tennis court under the left wing of the Spruce Goose since they are taking it out, but that is the only change we have. Our Friday night cocktail hour - dinner dance will be under the right wing of the Spruce Goose, and the Saturday night cocktail hour - dinner dance, will be in the Grand Ballroom, STILL THE LARGEST BALLROOM AFLOAT. We have the premier orchestra in California both nights, playing their specialty, the big band sounds, and keep your eyes open during the cocktail hours, you never know who you might be standing next to. (Pictures allowed). We have a couple breakfasts, and the usual Champagne Brunch. The memorabilia and registration room will be open each day, so bring your pictures, maps and other memorabilia. Both flags, the Wing Flag from Guam, and the new Group Flag, will be on display, and we will dedicate a plaque in the Historical Section of the Queen Mary, in honor of the 1st crossing of the Queen as a troop ship. Many of the guys present made that 40 day and 40 night trip on the Queen from Boston to Sydney 50 years ago, and there will be a lot of memories there.

We have a grand program for you, and expect well in excess of 600 to be attending. There is plenty of parking space, and your room price of \$72.00 includes parking. The registration fee for the reunion is \$92.00 per person, and those getting their money in by the 15th of October will get a chance at a free \$72.00 room for their stay. The \$72.00 rate is in effect 2 days prior to Monday, November 9th, and 2 days after the reunion. This is going to be a real fun trip. See you there. Have a healthy & prosperous year,

PRESIDENT
DALE & GEN BARR SR.
6222 SO. 87TH AVE.
OMAHA, NE 68124
(402) 397-7948

SECTY-TREAS
LLOYD & HELEN BOREN
102 BEECHWOOD
UNIVERSAL CITY, TX 78148
(512) 658-5978

REUNION CHAIRMAN
JOSE & REBECCA HOLGUIN
3660 AMESBURY RD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027
(213) 663-6184

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* * * * *

I want to thank all of you who took the time to write and send information regarding the questionnaire included in the last newsletter. We got several items cleared up but still do not have answers to the large majority of the questions asked. Rather than publish the entire questionnaire a second time, those of you who did read it and have information relating to it but did not get around to responding, please send it to the authors. Send your replies to: Larry Hickey, International Research and Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 3334 High Mar Station, Boulder, Colorado 80307. If your material relates to the B-17 era and you don't want to pay the postage to Australia, send your replies to Larry Hickey and it will be forwarded on to Bruce Hoy.

CASUALTIES:

The book will contain a complete list of all persons who died while serving with the 43rd B.G., as well as a detailed description of the circumstances. A listing of casualties exists from activation through the end of January, 1944, although it lacks details in some instances. Unfortunately, we don't know duty positions for many of these people. For duty positions and beyond that date, I particularly need ANYONE who knows the circumstances of the death of any member of the 43rd to write in what they know about the incident. Records are somewhat fragmentary during the early part of 1944. We particularly need information concerning accidental deaths, including losses on leave, deaths while on aircraft belonging to units other than the 43rd, suicides, and other non-combat losses. These often are poorly covered in unit records. We need full name, rank, date of incident, duty position of the person who died, serial numbers of any involved aircraft, and details of what happened. If you don't know all this, just tell me what you do know. Also, writing and telling us that there were no accidental deaths in your squadron while you were there is also helpful, so we stop looking for incidents. Can anyone provide the specific details of the crash of a B-18 at Bangor, Maine, on 11/15/41, killing Lts. Beckham and Thompson? What were their crew positions? Were there any survivors of the crash?

EARLY HISTORY

We still need much more detailed information on the early days of the 43rd, including personal recollections of duty at Bangor, how the unit was formed, who the key cadre were in each squadron, where they came from, how training was conducted, and the like. We need this same kind of information, along with specific descriptions of camp life, moves, and early training and ops in Australia. Nothing is too insignificant. The Authors weren't there, so if you don't tell us how it was, we can't accurately report it in the book.

COLOR PROFILES

We are working on the layouts for the 48 full-color aircraft profile paintings. We received no recommendations for paintings of 63rd aircraft for the period Jan.- Mar. 1945, and badly need photos of the tail of Maj. Butts' B-24, nicknamed BOOTS, during the summer of 1945. In the 64th Sq., I need a photo of the nose art and mission scoreboard of the B-24 FRISKY, which was written off on April 2, 1944. I have photos taken in 1943, but I need to know how the aircraft appeared during March or the beginning of April, 1944, just before it was written off. For the 65th Sq. I need information on the service dates of JUNGLE QUEEN of the 65th Sq. along with info on what happened to the plane. Can anyone provide the tail number or photos? I also need to know what happened to the 65th B-24 TARGET FOR TONIGHT, #060? I need any indication that it was still flying in July, 1944, or later and photos of its mission scoreboard during that period. We have earlier info, but need it for that period. I very badly need clear photos of the B-24 #476 THE WOLF PACK as it appeared with 96 missions and 1000 hours in May of 1945. We still have received no information indicating there were ANY 43rd B-24s which reached 100 missions. If you know that one did, please write immediately.

AIRCRAFT INFO

- 1) Bruce Hoy is looking for info on any B-17 losses for the 63rd Sq. in Oct. 1943. Unit records report a total of 14 B-17s lost or written off by the 63rd, but he can only account for 13. Can anyone provide details of a B-17 write off in Oct?
- 2) We have a photo of a B-24, purported to be 65th Sq., landed wheels up, probably sometime in late 1944 or early 1945. It carries the nickname JOE DOPE SPECIAL, along with artwork of a mechanic with a bomb slung over his shoulder and carrying a tool box. Can anyone identify the incident and the crew who was flying it.
- 3) I badly need a date (about July-Aug. 45) when B-24 RUM AND COKE of the 65th cracked up when a wheel folded on landing at either Clark Field or Ie Shima. Tillotson was crew chief of this plane.

THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE! Keep the letters and info coming. Photo collections are being mailed back steadily to those who have submitted them.