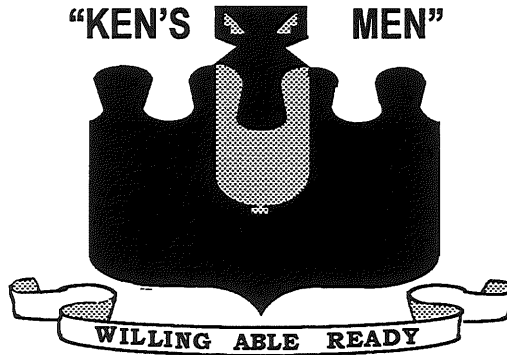


43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

"KEN'S MEN"



TREASURER

Bill Wilson
43rd Bomb Group Assoc.
P.O. Drawer M-360
Snyder, Texas
79550-0360

PRESIDENT

Max Osborn
43rd Bomb Group Assoc. P.O. Box 1025
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

NEWSLETTER

Patrick & Charley Tuttle
43 BG Newsletter
P.O. Box 0443
Montgomery, Alabama
36123-0443

43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

53RD EDITION, JANUARY 1995, PATIRCK & CHARLEY TUTTLE, EDITORS

From MAX OSBORN

The year 1995 will undoubtedly involve many celebrations regarding the 50th anniversary of the termination of World War II. The reunion in Cheyenne from Sept. 4-10 of the 43rd Bomb Group will be close to the exact date of the signing of the surrender ceremonies on the Battleship Missouri in 1945. In San Antonio **ART DURBECK** and I ran in to some veterans of the Missouri who informed us they were having their next reunion on the Missouri on the exact date of the signing, next year, 1995. Get your reservations in to The Hitching Post, on the form accompanying this newsletter.

The registration fee for the reunion is \$90 per person. Send it to Max Osborn, 43rd BG Box 1025, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003. This will pay for the barbecue and entertainment at the Terry Bison Ranch on Friday night. Banquet at the Hitching Post, Saturday night, continental breakfast on Saturday, Brunch on Sunday, the ladies program, Bus to the Terry Bison Ranch, rides at the ranch, music on Saturday night, and coffee at the memorabilia room all days. Irene E and **BOB WATSON** will be handling the registration as usual. Warren Air Force Base is adjacent to Cheyenne and a shuttle system will be arranged so members and guests may see the base and Cheyenne in that manner. The golf tournament will be at the AFB on Thursday morning, **MAX AXELSON** in charge.

The yearly dues were increased to \$15. Life membership is \$100. It was suggested the life members voluntarily add to their membership fee. I sent an additional \$100 to **BILL WILSON** and he assured me I would live 10 years longer to get the full benefit of my second \$100. He will make the same guarantee to other life members.

SENATOR JOHN McCAIN from Arizona was in Cheyenne before the election campaigning for the Senatorial candidate who was eventually successful, Senator Craig Thomas. I met him and mentioned I had served in the South Pacific in the same general area as his father, Admiral McCain. He replied that was his grandfather. Senator McCain has white hair. I felt 123 years old. Senator McCain told the assembled group at the VFW there was a too small percentage of the US. Congress that were veterans. He also stated veterans' benefits were not "entitlements", the benefits were contract rights. Good Man!!

I received the 90th Bomb Group history book. I wrote to Wiley Woods, their historian, to whom I had furnished some material years ago, which was acknowledged in the book. I mentioned Manny Trevino, 90th BG, had been at our reunion. He answered that Manny had called him after he received my letter, thus chastised Manny for attending our reunion and not the 90th in Salt Lake. **TOM JAMISON** brought Manny and I want Tom to bring him to Cheyenne. Manny is featured in the 90th book.

JOSH BARNES 65th Co. was at San Antonio and his name was left out in the last newsletter on those attending. I even have proof by a picture sent to me by Sam Commons showing Josh sitting by Ann Warner at the banquet. Josh promised me he would come to Cheyenne. Sam also sent me a picture of Doc Gusack, bud Fletcher, and him together with several reunion pictures.

RALPH SCOTT, 65th sent pictures of 3 B-24s still flying. "Diamond Lil", Delectable Doris", and "All American". Ralph also inquired about the book "Down Under" and where to buy it. I checked the newsletter and found he didn't look far enough since **FRED BLAIR's** address and info are in the letter. Hope you have it by now, Ralph.

Cards and letters have been coming in praising the past service of **BREEZY BOREN** and complimenting the appointment of **BILL WILSON**. Bill accepted the Treasurer position and then took the Secretary position until **PATRICK and CHARLEY TUTTLE (Hq 43 BMW)** retire and move back to Texas from Alabama. Patrick and Charley will handle the newsletter however, we have to have the Secretary/Treasurer in Texas to avoid any problems with our tax exempt status. Under the our By-laws the Board of Directors must sanction the appointment of the Secretary/Treasurer and I assured Bill the outlying precincts had come in with solid support for him, as we expected. **NICK ARABINKO** 60th reported praise of those homilies you see on some desks with a thought-for-the-day calendars. Nick, I especially appreciated the one that associated me with H.L. Mencken as both our signs are Virgo.

SHAD SHADDOX, 64th Board member endorsed **BILL** by telephone and letter, as **SHAD** apparently travels a great deal. His fellow Board Director, **RUSS BURNETT** also wrote his endorsement and a promise to make Cheyenne. Also that 43 BG golf champ, **JIM DIEFENDERFER** is on the board for the 63rd.

CHARLES McCLENNY 64TH, wanted to know the dates of the Cheyenne reunion and we want to see him then.

SAM COMMONS, 65TH in his letter to me officially informed me he had delivered the plaque to **DOC GUSACK** and that he was visibly moved by our remembrance. Doc, remember, you promised to get to Cheyenne. Sam's other pictures included **BUD LAWSON**, **ART DURBECK** and me in splendid golf photos along with one of the Heineken girl at the roof top pool. None of Sam with the singing sisters at the banquet!! Sam's letter head is of the 65th crew photo, a great letterhead!

ROGER KETTLESON, 64th sent clippings of news reports on volcanic eruptions at Rabaul. I subsequently saw television reports of the devastation. Imagine 2 feet of volcanic ash covering Simpson Harbor, where I swam in 1982 while looking up to the spot at 28,000 feet I had bombed in 1943!! **JANCIE OLSON**, Associate, informed **BREEZY** our bombs finally worked. **CARL HUSTAD**, 63RD dropped them, I think down the volcanoes. Carl, you must have had 50 years delayed fuses. Roger wrote recently **GLENN REAM** 64th is laid up with a broken ankle in Harrisburg, Utah. His wife Della has had eye surgery so they can't drive now. Roger warns us all to stay off step ladders.

FRANK STAGNER, 3105 Kenland Drive, San Jose, CA 95111, (408)281-4083, former 12 year old Civilian POW interned in Santo "Tomas" Prison Camp seeks information from aircrew personnel who took part in Snooper missions over the City of Manila during the week prior to **Christmas 1944**. He is particularly interested in the operation which has occurred during Christmas Eve night or early morning Christmas Day. the mission included dropping of Christmas Greetings leaflets by b-24s of the 63rd.

RICHARD SALLEY, 63rd had an unpleasant experience at the Hyatt regency and favored us with a copy of his letter of complaint to the Hotel. Other than the complaints about his room, he mentioned the acoustical problem we had at the meeting rooms. Richard, I promise to give attention to that question when we meet at the Hitching Post in Cheyenne. I hope the hotel has responded to your room complaint.

DALE BARR, 403rd and immediate past president, reported in on reunion materials and had "**GO BIG RED**" at the bottom of his letter. What does that mean Dale? Could that be a football team located in Lincoln, Nebraska?

RUSS BURNETT 64th sent an effusive letter on the San Antonio reunion and pointed out he met his nose gunner **JACK NUKNELLE** for the first time in 49 years. Then spent a week with radio operator **BYRLE MILLER** before the reunion. Makes it all worth it, doesn't it Russ? Later Russ and Jane spent of couple of nights in Massillon, OH with **RUSS and DOT EDWARDS**, 63rd.

Intrepid **MAX AXELSON**, 403rd send pictures of a proposed spot for a memorial of the 43rd at Lackland AFB between a B-24 and a B-17. He and **PAUL BAUER**, 403rd toured the area, which I remember well, having visited there several years ago with our Military affairs Committee as guests of our National Guard. he proposed two inscriptions, either of which I would endorse. I'm all for it but would like the Group to endorse it which might have to be at our next reunion, in spite of *MAX the AX's* request for haste. Max, get some cost estimates.

MAURICE HESTERMAN, 65th, sends belated dues with the remark he didn't know what the dues were raised from but he does remembers a lot of things from 50 years ago. Happens to all of us.

Golfing buddy and 65th Director **JIM HARCROW** sends his endorsement of **BILL WILSON**. Sent a picture from the *Air Force Times*, Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Sheila Widnall looking at our Cheyenne Frontier Days while she visited here in July. The same photo appeared in the *Air Force Magazine*. She was a Grand Marshall in our Frontier Days parade and since I announced the parade from the deck of a bank here in town, I was able to welcome her and let her know I was an old Air Force veteran of 43 BG fame. Jim, the golf course at F.E. Warren AFB will be ready for you.

DICK and JANE HENNING, 64th report they haven't received a newsletter for some time. I noticed in 192 roster your address is New Carlisle, OH and in your letter it is Springfield, OH. Let me know the problem isn't corrected for our hosts at the Dayton, OH reunion where we dedicated our bench and saw the Museum at Wright-Patterson.

RICHARD WERTZ 63rd sent dues and excerpts from General Kenney's book regarding the 90th BG rocks affair and the "chic sale" incident. I received personal remarks about the latter when the 90th had their reunion here in Cheyenne in 1982.

BOB ROCKER, our associate requests info on a B-24 crash at Nadzab on March 5, 1944. He states he has some recent photos of Buna and Sananda point and will have photos of all Jap airfields in the Dutch East Indies in the near future.

LES and HELEN COFFMAN 64th regretted missing San Antonio but have promised to be in Cheyenne.

GORDON BAVOR, Hq Norwalk, CT hopes to make Cheyenne, after missing San Antonio. **ANDY BUROCHONOCK and DOROTHY** from nearby Stamford, have told me they will be in Cheyenne so Connecticut should be well represented.

CLAIR and JULIA WRIGHTS, 63rd explained Judy's broken leg prevented San Antonio but will be in Cheyenne, and also sent dues and money for the Breezy fund.

BILL HERRE, 63rd explained that grounding from a stroke prevented San Antonio but says he's normal now. Bill, Cheyenne is a lot closer to Sacramento.

FRED and MARGARET BLAIR reports in he is still selling a lot of "Down Under" books and regrets the book business took a lot of his time in San Antonio. I remember seeing Fred at the Hyatt Regency desk trying to pray his shipload of books out of customs or something. Fred, I'm sure you will sell a lot of them at Cheyenne. Again, **FRED's** address now is 16 Old Saddle Road, Ridge, NY 11961 and I know he has a book for you.

FRANK WALDEN 403rd checks in with check number 403!! Working as a volunteer in a nursing home and feels lucky to be walking around, having been in a plane crash in Dec. 1943, a year in the hospital, completing 43 months and 8 days in the Pacific, Frank, we'd like to see you in Cheyenne.

DICK COOPER, 65th has corresponded with me from Conneaut, OH, which I discovered is in the northeast corner of his state on the lake, where he has retired. He remembered seeing a typewritten account of a B-17 pilot who dive bombed shipping and recalled it as labeled "And His Name Was Zemer". **JAY ZEAMER**, could you enlighten us on this? Dick also recalled the Coke plant bombing incident. He also mentioned he has supplied **LARRY HICKEY** with info so we can expect more details when Larry publishes.

LEWIS DAWS, 65th crew chief on B-17 "Loose Goose" flown by **JOSH BARNES** sent in money for **BREEZY** fund, he stated he was the co-crew chief on the B-24 that **JOSH** was test hopping with **RALPH POULSEN** when it settled down in bootless inlet off Jackson Strip but wasn't flying in it, but his friend was killed in the crash. Lew, **LARRY HICKEY** has a picture of the crash in the water that I supplied him, and it will be in the book. I want to meet you in Cheyenne.

DON FENNER, 403rd, sent in dues and something for **BREEZY** and mentioned he hasn't been to a reunion as he doesn't know anyone. Don, come to Cheyenne and you will be surprised how many people you know. **WAYNE CALDWELL**, 403rd, sent message identical to Don's and we say the same thing to Wayne, come to Cheyenne!!!!

WALTER KICHURA, 403rd regrets not making San Antonio because of surgery, but hopes to make Cheyenne. Another one of the many contributing to **BREEZY** fund.

RICHARD WILLIAMS, 403rd, reports on a night raid to Rabaul with pilot **ART DURBECK**. they had dropped half their bombs and had ack-ack all around them but Art decided to go round and drop the rest. Richard states Art was a brave S.O.B. and his first hero of the war.

ROBERT CLAYCOMBE, 65th reports he had not attended any reunions since he as a latecomer to the Group, arriving at Ie Shima on August 10, 1945. However, he managed to get together a crew reunion Sept. 20, 21, 1994 in Indianapolis. Attending were **MARY & WILLIAM MYLES**, **MARGE & HAROLD BUELOW**, **BONNIE & BETHEL RAY**, **GAYLENE & LEONARD TODD**, and **SUE & ROBERT CLAYCOMBE**. He would like to hear from anyone who may remember him and the crew and said they made a pact to be in Cheyenne.

Their Honor We Will Never Forget

Recently deceased members of our organization

JOSEPH A. GREEN	403rd	January 22, 1994
THOMAS DOYLE	65th	September 13, 1994
MAURICE DIONNE	403rd	September 25, 1994
JOEL GRIFFIN	403rd	October 31, 1994

WILLIAM EATON, 403rd visited **JOEL GRIFFIN** in the hospital after a meeting of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association on Sept. 24th.

Last note. Send our registration for the reunion to me now and fill out the reservation form included in this newsletter. Send the form to the Hitching Post. Note the \$52 room rate so come early in order to visit with all your veteran comrades. Adios for the moment to the greatest Bomb Group Organization in the World.

"Best of the New Year"

MAX

From **WILLIE**, temporary Secretary.....

CHARLES DENNISONS, 65th Family advises of Charles' passing and sent \$100 for Life Membership. New Address is **KIM GLENN**, 3505 Arapho Street, Hannibal MO 63401. Send Kim a note assuring them we miss Charles but welcome them to share our memories. God Bless.

A note from **JOEL W. GRIFFIN, SR's Family**. Joel was in the 403rd. A Tail Gunner and P.O.W. The family wants to express their thanks to each of you for your support in his last days. **BILL EATON** an extra special thanks. I represented the 43rd at his services.

WILLIAM K. McKINNEY, 63rd, Waist Gunner sent in his dues. Said "HI" to everyone and keep the newsletter coming.

BRUCE HOY, P.O. Box 249, Aspley, Old 4034, Australia, writes to say "HI" to each of you and reports he is having a rough time of it in changing jobs. Bruce is a good Aussie, so send him note of encouragement. He has been a big help to the 43rd.

A letter from **BOB & DORIS BUTTLE**, 63RD. Bob lost his Brother-in-law **COL JAMES WATSON TWITTY**. He was internationally known artist. His works are displayed in the National Gallery, Corcoran Gallery, Brooklyn Museum, and throughout the United States. Bob and Doris are both well and "Season's Greetings" to all.

RICHARD E. WILLIAMS, 403rd Tail Gunner sent in a nice donation for Helen and Breezy and best regards to each of us.

RICHARD E. SCHAEFFER sent in dues and a little info so you would remember him. Transferred in to 403rd as Private in "43. Left in November '44. As a SSgt and over 400 hours of combat time, good show, Richard.

JIM PETTUS says he still has some of the prints of the painting of Four squadrons in B-24's over Ie Shima. Send \$20.00 to Jim or me and you have a super keepsake.

LOYD DUMOND, 65th, son advised me his father passed way 29 October, 1994. I expressed our condolences. Loyd mad the San Antonio Reunion in a wheel chair, had a big time.

FRANCIS W. LANGLAND, 63rd had his wife write. They had to cancel our on San Antonio reunion. Francis had to have an operation and couldn't make it. They have made several reunions and looking forward to seeing everyone in Wyoming. Set another plate **MAX OSBORN**.

ARNOLD M. HUSKINS sent in a gift for Helen and Breezy and much thanks for all their free work. Arnold was a Bomb Aimer in the 65th.

MRS. MARIE PAGNOTTA writes that her husband passed away 20 September, 1994. Mrs. Pagnotta, we will all miss our Comrade and extend our blessings to you.

RICHARD W. COOPER, 65th, Bombardier, writes in that we can't spell his home town. Tried it twice -- no luck. Well, Dick, I think we will make it this time. If I could spell, I might have been a college professor, but I guess the world needs a few used car salesmen. Dick, glad you told me about your pilot, **MARVIN L. STEPHEN** and Bombardier **BEN BARRON**. Two great Texans--Take care.

This brings the mail up to date. We are very lucky to have **PATRICK** and **CHARLEY TUTTLE** offer to do the Newsletter and when they move to San Antonio in the fall of '95, they take over as Secretary. They are good folks and I am sure we will all enjoy having their help.

GEORGE WHITE has been a big help to me. This is the same fellow that got me busted after 4 years as your President. I went in a young Major and with George's help I came out a Private -- was sweating out making Colonel, then he got me the "Temporary" SECRETARY/TREASURE JOB --Some people have all the luck.

The response to Breezy and Helen's Retirement Gift has been great. If you wanted to send a donation, but forgot, it is still not too late. Just send it to me and we will present it to them before long. they gave so much. This is our chance to give a little.

The Newsletter will be going out in December, March, June, and September. If you have something to put in, please send it to me, Thanks.

BREEZY and **HELEN** moved all our things to Snyder. Breezy spent the day with us to get us going. Now we can call him most every day. I'm sure it will work. After all, we are the 43rd.

A note to the Ladies, with Christmas coming up, let up on the fellows about what old men do. I know we go around with our turn signals on, used Kleenex in our pockets, etc., but we love you ladies very much. Happy Holiday Seasons from

BILL & MARY LOIS
"GOD BLESS"

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Some of the troops are two years or more behind on their dues. Check your address label. If it doesn't have "94" or "95" or "Life", this means you. The Bylaws require that you be dropped. This will be your last edition of the Newsletter and you will not be listed in the new Roster. **Simple Fix!!** Send in \$15.00 for your 95 Dues. An envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. Please don't be a drop out -- **We Need everyone.**

From the EDITORS

LETTERS RECEIVED:

Townsville Announcement:

GENERAL MYERS, Commander of 5AF, Yokota AB, Japan, members of his staff, and the A.F. Band of the Pacific will return to Townsville, Australia August 15 - 20, 1995, in support of *PEACE FESTIVAL '95*, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the end of the War in the Pacific.

The City of Townsville is to offer freedom of entry, the highest honor that can be given by the city to a military unit. The United States and Australian governments are planning to equal or exceed the highly successful *1992 CORAL SEA Commemoration*.

5AFMF and all 5AF units are requested to ensure this announcement get the widest distribution.

Distinguished Flying Cross Society:

The **DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS SOCIETY** is now in existence, having received its approval as a nonprofit organization from the California Secretary of State and the IRS. The DFC is awarded as a result of deeds accomplished during aerial flight. The societies aim is to publicize the meaning of the award and to honor its recipients.

For more information on membership, newsletter, and reunions, contact **ALEXANDER D. CIURCZAK**, the societies founder at 714-493-7165, or write to 34552 Camino Capistrano, Capistrano Beach, CA 92624-1232.

American Airpower Heritage Museum, Inc.:

More than 30 World War II authors, historians and veterans will speak about the war experience as the **AMERICAN AIRPOWER HERITAGE MUSEUM** and **MIDLAND COLLEGE** present the International Symposium "*Pilots & Poster Girls*, Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the End of WWII."

The symposium will be held March 2 - 4, 1995, at the Midland Hilton and at the Confederate Air Force Headquarters, Midland, Texas. Speakers include Jeff Ethell, Jeremy Howard-Williams, and Lester Brune. A panel discussion of combat crewmen including American Aces, RAF and Luftwaffe pilots is be planned. Among those invited are Joe Foss and Tex Hill.

To receive registration information contact Midland College at (915) 685-4724, or Ms. Buckley (915) 567-3010, or write to Dr. Will Morris, symposium co-chair, Midland College, 3600 North Garfield, Midland, Texas 79705.

Closing Comment from the Editors:

This is the first Newsletter for Charley and I to compile. We look forward to continuing the success that **BREEZY** achieved in conveying the *News of the 43rd* to the membership -- the family of the 43rd. We have always felt welcomed, having both served with the 43d Bombardment Wing at Andersen AFB, Guam, prior to the units deactivation in 1990.

As **MAX** and **BILL** have both addressed, we anticipate returning to Texas following my Air Force career. **CHARLEY** separated this past November, a part of the current downsizing DoD is facing. I will reach the 20 year point in September 1995.

Our effort is to serve the membership at large and hope, from time to time, you won't mind if we interject some of the **43rd's rich B-52 history and accounts**.

V/R

PATRICK & CHARLEY TUTTLE

43rd Bomb Group Reunion

We invite you to stay with us!

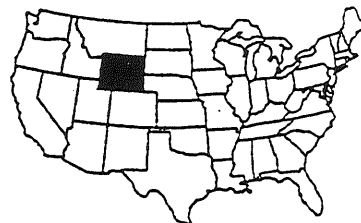
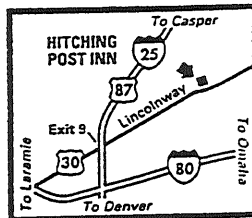
The Hitching Post Inn and Staff are anxious to host you. We are very proud of our fine quality service and plan to make your reunion memorable and fun. The following is a list of some of our amenities that you're sure to enjoy:

- ❖ *Carriage Court*, an award-winning gourmet restaurant
- ❖ *Cheyenne Cattle Company*, Cheyenne's newest steak house
- ❖ *Coffee-House*, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner
- ❖ Indoor and Outdoor Swimming Pools
- ❖ Fitness Center with Lifecycles and new Cal-gym weight lifting system
- ❖ Men's and Women's saunas and a Jacuzzi
- ❖ Voice mail in all guest rooms
- ❖ The Statement, a fine women's apparel shop
- ❖ Gift Shop and Package Liquor Stores on property
- ❖ Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres from 5 - 7 p.m. during happy hour, Monday-Friday
- ❖ Complimentary morning coffee in the lobby for hotel guests
- ❖ Discount meal coupons for each guest upon check-in

To ensure that you have a room with us, we have provided you with the following reservation form. A room block will be held up to 2 weeks prior your seminar. Please place your reservation prior to August 21, 1995. We are anxious to see you in September!



Hitching Post Inn
1700 W. Lincolnway
Cheyenne, WY 82001
(800)221-0125 - Reservations



Group: **43rd Bomb Group Reunion September 4-9, 1995**
Return to Hitching Post Inn
Attention: Reservationist, 1700 W. Lincolnway, Cheyenne, WY 82001

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send 1st nights rental with room request or Credit Card number.

Credit Card Company _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Please reserve the following for _____ Person(s).

Arrival _____ Departing _____ 19 _____

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single (1 bed, 1 person) | Hitching Post Inn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Double (1 or 2 beds, 2 persons) | \$52.00 |
| | \$52.00 |

Check-In Time 2:00 p.m./ Check-Out Time is Noon
(If possible, we will have room ready earlier)

43rd BOMB GROUP HISTORY UPDATE AND QUESTIONNAIRE 11/94

The authors have been working hard on the book, mainly writing on the B-17 chapters, attempting to put together the materials needed to replace what was missing when Bruce Hoy was no longer able to continue with the project. The material is coming together well and most of our questions have been cleared up, enabling us to do a first class job on the B-17 material. We already had the B-24 material done to the standards of the project. As we have been working with the B-17 section, some additional questions and problems have arisen which we hope to clear up here. Thanks to help from Virginia Murray, Lloyd Boren's sister, we've cleared up all of our remaining questions but one or two concerning our complete and detailed 43rd Casualty List. She has visited the Army Casualty Office in Washington DC twice and done a first class job working through the records there. So onward to publication by the next reunion! Send all material and responses to this questionnaire directly to : LARRY HICKEY, INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING CORP., P.O. BOX 3334 HIGH MAR STATION, BOULDER, COLORADO 80307; (303) 499-0530.

A) FATAL CASUALTIES:

We are still looking for the name of an unidentified 64th navigator who went missing aboard a B-25 on a flight between Leyte and Biak on either December 23rd or 24, 1944. This is the only remaining 43rd fatality for which we can't provide a name. Does anyone know who this man was? He must have been on someone's crew.

B) AIRCRAFT

1) We are down to just a few missing match-ups of nose art and nicknames. HELP! HELP! Even small clues would be appreciated. Please check your flight logbooks, diaries and/or the memories of crew chiefs and ground crewmen for any clues which might allow us to match a tail number with the following nicknamed aircraft: 63rd: camouflaged B-24 SITTING PRETTY, unnamed B-24 artwork of tiger's head with ship in its jaws (early camouflaged J model in 1944), B-24 with several swastikas and Nazi submarine silhouettes on scoreboard. YANK magazine article says pilot from Atlantic anti-submarine unit and brought B-24 to Pacific when assigned to 43rd. Need any info on this one. Have pictures of two B-24s with this info, both different; 64th: two silver B-24s in the Philippines MANILA CALLING and LADY FROM LEYTE (have had letters saying these planes were in 63rd, 64th and 65th). We know LADY FROM LEYTE was B-24J #44-40807, and that MANILA CALLING was in the same block of serial numbers. LFL was probably assigned at Owi and was salvaged in January, 1945. 65th: B-17 STUD DUCK, camouflaged B-24 with a nude female nicknamed THE PETER HEATER; late war silver B-24 WINDY CITY KITTY--IT'S UP TO YOU, photographed on Ie Shima; 403rd: early camouflaged B-24s FRIVOLOUS SAL, JUNE BRIDE. Both of these were early camouflaged B-24s assigned about August or Sept., 1943, and are believed to have been lost on missions. These must have been either #924 (crashed Port Moresby 11/1/43), #934 (missing on weather aborted raid to Rabaul on 10/13/43, #949 (crashed landed at Bulolo after damage over Wewak on 8/24/43, #984 (crashed Port Moresby 8/31/43), or #210 (missing on Rabaul mission 11/10/43). We believe that Carl Hermingsen was crew chief on JUNE BRIDE; SQUADRON UNKNOWN: B-17s: MISS MAVIS, TOKYO JINX, and STRIP STRAFER. In addition, we know that on 12/12/44, one or more 63rd B-24s were destroyed by fire at Tacloban, killing the 63rd Engineering Officer. Need ID and/or photos of these planes. Also, a P-38 accidentally dropped a bomb on the 481st Service Sq. at Clark Field on 4/18/45, killing several service squadron personnel and destroying three 43rd B-24s undergoing repair. Need ID of these planes and/or photos of incident.

C) LEADERSHIP

We still need photos of any pre-war Group or Squadron C.O., especially GP COs Harold E. Smith (1/41-2/41), Francis B. Valentine (3/41-2/42) and Conrad H. Diehl, Jr (2/42-10/42). We also still need photos of the following wartime SQ C.O.s: 63rd: Bill Benn (9/42-11/42), John Van Trigt (8/43-11/43) and Albert Brownfield (1/45-5/45); 64th: Eugene Halliwill (1/42-7/42), Jack Bleasdale (7/42-12/42) (both killed), and Lin Parker (1/45-5/45); 65th: James Hayes (2/42-11/42); 403rd: Russell Bragg (5/44-8/44) and Willis Bond (6/45-8/45?). WE ESPECIALLY NEED PHOTO OF BILL BENN!!!

D) PHOTOS

Need photos of 43rd activities at Langley Field during formation, and any training aircraft used at either Langley or Bangor (especially 13th Recco's short lived B-17A called the RELUCATANT DRAGON that crashed at Bangor in 1941). These would include B-18s, B-25s, LB-30s or B-17s, or Lockheed Hudsons known to have been assigned to 43rd Stateside. Also need photos of any overseas crashed or crash-landed B-17 or B-24 not previously sent.

E) CREW CHIEFS:

For histories accompanying the 48 full color aircraft paintings in the book, need names of crew chiefs who supervised ground maintenance crews of following aircraft: 63rd: B-17s #356 DOUBLE TROUBLE/KA-PUHIO-WELA (shot down Bismarck Sea Battle 3/3/43), Scott Project B-24 #058 LADY LUCK (cracked up Dobodura 12/3/43), #479 MISS LIBERTY (collided with Jap nightfighter 9/44), #904 QUEEN OF HEARTS, #425 (no name) (crashed with SQ CO at Owi killing many 1/9/45); 64th: B-24s #922 MARIE, #865 LAST HORIZON; 65th: #472 GUINEA PIG (212 missions flown), B-24s PETTY GAL (one of first silver B-24s, written off 5/18/45 w/combat damage), #827 RUM AND COKE (cracked up Ie Shima 9/45); 403rd: #335 MILLION \$ BABY (one of 1st Silver B-24s in SQ).

F) ARTWORK:

We badly need photos for color profile completion of 403rd B-17 #551 (Dorwin Wilson's plane), with nickname FIRE BALL MAIL. It was burned out at Milne Bay on 1/17/43 in Jap bombing attack. Bruce Hoy has a copy of this, probably supplied by one of you but we have been unable to obtain a copy of this.

G) AIRCRAFT LOSSES/ACCIDENTS:

1) We need photos, tail number, location and any details of incident where 403rd CO ran a B-17 off runway during take off on 11/11/42, probably at Mareeba. Anyone who was aboard, or who knows about incident please contact authors.

2) We need name of pilot and story for 64th B-17E #662 SPAWN OF HELL which landed on beach at Batamata on 11/15/42, during first combat mission. Deceased member "Lucky" Stevens was gunner. Need name of pilot and reasons for landing (fuel?)

3) Need tail number of 403rd B-17 (Lt. Hocutt) that landed at crash strip at Waigani Mission after 1/5/43 Rabaul Raid. Need any details/photos of incident.

4) Need tail # and/or photos of 64th B-17 (Lt. Curran) which made emergency landing at Buna (Dobodura) 2/3/43 after being shot up by Jap destroyer off Finschhafen.

5) Need tail number and any details of 65th B-17 (Lt. Gibbs) landing at emergency strip at Hood Point while returning from Rabaul raid 2/23/43. Photos?

6) 12/23/43 a 64th B-24 #112 cracked up on landing at Dobodura. Need photos and name of pilot or any crewman aboard. Details of incident.

7) 2/29/44 a 65th B-24 #098 cracked up on landing at Dobodura, cutting tail off P-47 and hitting vehicle. Was returning from recce mission. Need name of pilot and/or crewmen aboard.

8) 9/28/44 a 65th B-24 #403 is believed to have cracked up at Owi while landing. Need photos and name of pilot.

9) late 8/45 or early 9/45 at Ie Shima 65th B-24 RUM AND COKE had gear collapse on landing. Need date of incident (someone's diary??) and name of pilot and/or crew.

H) AUSTRALIA CAMPS AND ACTIVITIES: I need photos of movement overseas, early camp areas and activities in Australia during 1942, for both air and ground echelon. Our photo coverage for this is light in the book.

PLEASE NOTE: We are still badly in need of any logbooks, diaries or notebooks where you recorded the missions you flew, along with the tail numbers and/or nicknames of the planes you flew on. We especially need this for B-17 era. Anything is of help! PLEASE SEND ME A COPY ASAP!!!!

PLEASE SEND ALL INFO TO: LARRY HICKEY, INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING CORP., PO BOX 3334 HIGH MAR STATION, BOULDER, COLORADO 80307, (303) 499-0530.

P X S A L E

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PRINTS OF PAINTING

Jim Pettus' 4 Squadrons in B-24's over IeShima.

Dutch Ehlers Crew recon mission to Gasmata in

"The Old Man" 8th March, 1943.

These are prints of fine paintings--Jim & Breezy had the painting made then had the prints made so we could all enjoy them. The \$35.00 price was to get the 43rd Association some extra money -- let's cut the association out and let them get their money back. Send \$20.00 for them--a real buy and something you will always cherish.
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