

# 43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

"KEN'S MEN"



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43rd Bomb Group Association, Inc.  
60th Edition, October 1996

\*\*\*\*\* FROM James T. Murphy, President \*\*\*\*\*

My first item is to thank JIM and AUDREY DIEFFENDERFER for their splendid help. They worked hard for months to insure that this reunion was a success. In my opinion - it was! Also "RADAR" and VIRGINIA HOOVER made sure that the ladies entertainment was excellent.

JANICE OLSON and FRED HAGEN provided us with memorable film and discussion. Those young people provided interest and excitement to the program. Our organization can stay young and healthy when we are kept up-to-date by them and other enthusiastic young members, relatives and associate members. Start thinking now toward bringing a son or daughter to the next reunion. It's surprising how much we can learn from them.

I am very pleased that JIM PETTUS volunteered to chair the next program in Albuquerque and that, of course, will highlight the exemplary events and contributions of the B-24. Many of us were gone when the 43rd changed over from B-17 to B-24. We are looking forward to a lot of learning from so many of you. Both on the ground and in the air.

Thanks again to all of you for coming to the reunion and making it a success! See you in Albuquerque in 1997. Keep your information coming.

\*\*\*\*\* FROM SAM COMMONS, VICE PRESIDENT \*\*\*\*\*

Our reunions are something we all look forward to each year. They are a time to press the flesh and greet old friends and make new friends. We are indeed blessed by the fellowship we developed over 50 years ago and continue to experience each time we meet.

No reunion of the 43rd would be complete without the diligent work of IRENE and BOB WATSON at the registration desk. Many thanks to them. We had over 300 in attendance. Our memorabilia room was a beehive of activity and was the center for meeting. Special thanks to those who brought picture and diaries to be viewed by all.

Hip, hip hooray to JIM DIEFFENDERFER for a great job setting up the reunion. It was one of the best in attendance and activities. Several members attended the reunion for the first time.

At the Board of Directors' meeting BILL WILSON asked to be relieved of his secretary's duties, but will stay on as treasurer for the time being.

RUDOLPH "JIM" CHERKAUER of the 65th Sqd. and retired professor of mathematics from SUNY College at Buffalo, will assume the job of secretary for the 43rd Bomb Group Assoc. At the 65th Sqd. meeting BOB WATSON, 65th bombardier, announced his resignation from the post of Vice President of the association because of health problems. JIM HARCROW, 65th pilot, resigned as a director on the Board. After nominations and election ELDON "BUD" LAWSON, 65th bombardier, was elected for a three-year term to replace JIM HARCROW. L. C. "CHALKY" WHITE, 65th bombardier, will fill the remaining time of a two-year term.

Our annual gold outing was set up by MAX AXELSEN, 403rd pilot. Approximately 40 golfers participated. EMIL LANGE, 64th bombardier, had a hole-in-one. SAM COMMONS was low net. JIM HARCROW won closest to the pin, and MAX AXELSEN had the longest drive. The weather was great and everyone had a good time despite losing golf balls on the water holes.

At our group meeting JIM PETTUS, 43rd C.O., has a signed FAX from LARRY HICKEY stating that our history book will be available by mid-December. JIM also had some proof pages on display. They were really quite impressive.

With BOB WATSON'S resignation as V.P., founder BOB BUTLER nominated SAM COMMONS, 65th Sqd., for that office. MAX AXELSEN was nominated by PAUL COBER, 403rd pilot, but he deferred to SAM COMMONS who was duly elected to the office.

MAX AXELSEN gave us an update on our plaque in San Antonio and showed a video on today's air force.

Saturday's banquet was a wonderful affair with good food and entertainment. Sunday's memorial service was conducted by JIM MURPHY, BOB BUTLER, and DICK WOOD of the 63rd. There was a special tribute to Father THOMAS "COACH" SHEA, our beloved group chaplain. What a wonderful example he set for us all.

DALE BARR, past president, died while changing planes in St. Louis on his way to the reunion. Our condolences to his family. DALE will be missed greatly by our group. A big thanks to NANCY SOLOMON, wife of BILL SOLOMON, 403rd radio operator, for lending her beautiful voice in leading "God Bless America" as we closed the service.

\*\*\*\*\* FROM JIM CHERKAUER, SECRETARY \*\*\*\*\*

The task of being secretary & treasurer is really too much for one person so JIM MURPHY and the Board agreed to give Bill some relief and offered me the office of secretary and editor of the Newsletter. These responsibilities I accepted enthusiastically. BILL will continue as treasurer for the time being. The work in the past of producing this newsletter has been excellent, and I will do my best to continue this tradition. Only with your help by sending in news, comments and suggestions will I be able to fulfill that desire - so keep the mail coming.

Send all mail to Jim Cherkauer at:

114 Thornclyff Road, Kenmore, New York 14223-1216.

If you have access to e-mail, then send such mail to : [cherj@buffnet.net](mailto:cherj@buffnet.net)

The newsletter will continue to be mailed from Snyder, TX, where the association has been given non-profit status by the US Post Office. This saves a considerable amount of money with each mailing.

## Minutes of the Association Meeting at Kissimmee, Florida.

On Saturday, September 14, 1996, JIM MURPHY called the Association to order for its annual meeting at 9:07 A.M. He introduced Dr. HENRY S. BLANK, 89 year old flight surgeon 64th, and expressed regrets that Doc. MILTON GUSACK, 65th flight surgeon, was unable to attend this reunion. JIM introduced Mrs. LaTANE RAMEY, widow of Gen. ROGER RAMEY a 43rd commander early in our history, and their son KEN a captain for Delta Airlines.

The business meeting was preceded by presentations by JANICE OLSON, associate member of 64th and daughter of the late CHICK OLSON of the 64th, ALFRED HAGEN, associate member of the 63rd, and MAX AXELSEN, 403rd pilot.

JANICE showed a film of her exploits in New Guinea where she has gone on a number of expeditions in an attempt to locate the B-17 in which her father had disappeared. She showed the efforts and results of locating and identifying four B-17s lost in New Guinea in 1943 in her presentation "Lest We Forget."

ALFRED HAGEN, great nephew of Major BILL BENN, C.O. and pilot in 63rd, showed a video of his efforts to locate the B-25 in which BILL BENN disappeared while on a daylight mission. BILL is credited with being the inventor of skip bombing used so successfully by the 63rd while night bombing in B-17s. ALFRED was not successful in his mission, but like JANICE he plans to resume his search in the future.

The third speaker of the morning, MAX AXELSEN, reported on the USAF since WWII. He too showed a video which outlined the changes in the Air Force since WWII as well as scenes with various air craft up to the present time. He also reported on the Groups memorial plaque San Antonio, TX.

The business meeting came to order at 11:45 A.M.. JIM MURPHY introduced JIM CHERKAUER, 65th pilot, as the new secretary. He read a letter from BOB WATSON who submitted his resignation as Vice President of the Association due to health conditions. BOB indicated that he would continue to work on the planning of future reunions. This is a task which he has undertaken for some time. We are thankful that he will continue to devote so much time and effort into the planning and success of so many reunions of the association.

The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Vice President. BOB BUTLER, 63rd bombardier and past president, nominated SAM COMMONS, 65th flight engineer. MAX AXELSEN was nominated but declined to run. With no further nominations coming from the floor, JIM MURPHY, closed the nominations and requested that one ballot be cast for SAM COMMONS. At that time SAM was declared the new Vice President of our Association.

BILL WILSON gave the Treasurer's report. The association is doing well. It currently had \$10,795.55 for operating funds and \$20,000 of lifetime membership dues invested at 6% annually.

BOB WATSON reported on the 1997 reunion in Albuquerque which sounds like another A-1 reunion.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 P.M.

At the exciting and entertaining luau Friday night, September 13th, the Association was called to order, and JAMES T. MURPHY was elected to serve as president for another one-year term. [Due to an oversight this matter had been skipped at the earlier business meeting.]

The meeting lasted about one minute at which time we all resumed having a great time at the luau around the pool at the Hibiscus Court.]

\*\*\*\*\* FROM JIM CHERKAUER, EDITOR \*\*\*\*\*

OTIS H. GODFREY, Jr. , 64th nose gunner and retired district court judge from St. Paul, MN, sent in his '96 dues along with a newsy letter. OTIS reports that they have not attended any reunions due to schedule conflicts and traveling. He flew with the crew of WINDY WOOLARD from June '44 to June '45. WINDY died of cancer a few years ago. The navigator, JIM NUNGE of Miami, passed away last May at the age of 78. The tail gunner, TONY ZITO from New Jersey, was a real character. They lost him early this year. OTIS writes that the crew of 10 is now down to 5 good men. A pal of the crew, WALT COFFMAN, now lives in Greeley, CO, and is twice a great, great grandfather at the age of 75.

From Roaring Branch, PA, CHARLES R. COLE, 403rd Crew Chief and retired master sergeant, reports that his wife, CLARA, has upped his allowance so he could send BILL WILSON his '95 and '96 dues. CHARLES writes that he just finished reading Claims to Fame by Steve Birdseil and Roger Freeman and states "All you B-17 men will enjoy reading that book of famous B-17s in the Pacific and European theaters of operations in WW II." He also hopes that LARRY HICKEY gets the 43rd Bomb Group book out soon.

AARON BURLESON, 65th pilot, from Altus, Ok, has sent in his dues for '96 and '97. AARON, I think that we flew on several of the same missions out of Clark Field and Ie Shima. Maybe we can meet again at Albuquerque.

JACK NUNNELLEE, 64th nose gunner , on the crew with RUSS BURNETT, flight engineer, and BYRLE MILLER, radio operator, had to miss the Kissimmee reunion since the doctors are working on some problems as they get him ready for knee surgery. Good luck JACK. He also sends along a change of address: 205 N.E. Dayton St., John Day, OR 97845. See you in New Mexico next year with your new knee.

Another who could not make this reunion due to health problems is JOHN ROCHE, 64th operations. We missed both you and GENEVIEVE and your good humor. It is nice to hear that that you are now doing much better. Just keep planning for and thinking Albuquerque.

When JIM MURPHY introduced me at the 43rd's meeting in Kissimmee, I was tapped on the shoulder by none other than HARRY STEPHENSON, 64th pilot. He wanted to know if I had a brother who attended Buffalo State College. The brother was none other than me. HARRY and I both attended college together, but most everyone called me Rudy then. I last had seen HARRY as he was headed home from Clark Field after his tour of duty was completed. It sure was nice to meet up again with a long lost friend.

ROBERT (BOB) WHITE, 64th tail gunner from W. Peabody, MA, chides BILL WILSON for mistake No. 100,000,002. In a letter dated 3-11-96, BOB wrote that VERN GASTON, pilot, was in the 65th. In the July edition of this newsletter, BILL wrote that ROBERT W. WHITE, 403rd, had helped him. BOB says if he was in the 403rd, he flew in some of the longest B-24s ever made as he was VERN'S tail gunner. But he adds for BILL to keep up the good work as he loves to get the newsletter. [This editor will try his best to do as well as BILL and previous editors have done with the newsletter.]

Dues for '95-'97 were included in a July letter from DICK SALLY, 63rd rad/mech. DICK reports that although he took the necessary preparations for hurricane Bertha, he, MARJORIE and their son, who helped him, were unscathed. DICK is hobbling around after some rather tricky knee surgery brought on by tripping in the garden. An MRI revealed arthritis in the knee as well as damage from the fall. Using the latest fiber optics and remote controlled devices

coupled with TV, the doctor removed the "Medial meniscus" and made the needed repairs. DICK writes that he was up and around the next day, but the knee still hurts and he used a cane to help him walk. He hopes it will be healed by reunion time. "Anyhow, like the kitty-kat—I'm 'hangin' in there." " Just this second got a call from CHARLIE FARHA in Rockledge [FL] ... real coincidence, because I was writing to you [BILL] about the 43rd BG, and he's a member. He's had a bunch of surgery, too, just like me. Guess we're all getting older,wot?"

In August, NICK ARABINKO, sent a long letter to BILL. I will try to do justice to his remarks as I paraphrase his words. NICK says BILL has achieved PPP (Picture, Postcard Perfect) with the newsletter in the short time he edited it. BREEZY BOREN did a "masterful" job too and edited the newsletter for many years, and [tongue in cheek] Bill should have asked for a raise rather than giving up the editorship. Bill has been earning "Psychic Income" which is the pure pleasure and joy of a job well done. NICK says he would not touch the job with a thirty foot step ladder. He encloses a number of selected Florida facts which now are post-Kissimmee but still relevant. Florida is first in production of Irish potatoes; the nation's capitol for lightning; its number one cash crop is Oranges; Xtra Dry Martinis are a close second. NICK sends along a couple of thoughts for the day. Although they are not original, he feels they are worth thinking about. "The society which scorns excellence in plumbing because plumbing is a humble activity and tolerates shoddiness in philosophy because it is an exalted activity will have neither good plumbing nor good philosophy. Neither its pipes nor its theories will hold water" by John W. Gardner, American government official. Salt Defined: According to one schoolboy, salt is the stuff that makes potatoes taste bad when you do not put any on. [Anonymous]

Enclosed with a letter WALT BUTLER, 63rd, sends his '97 and '97 dues. WALT says that he can't recall how much dues are per year. [\$15 and your \$30 covers both years.] This will help jog your memory WALT. He and LUCILLE send their thanks to BILL for a good newsletter. He also reports the passing of JOE PODBIELSKI, 63rd, in October of '95. We are always sad to hear of the passing of a comrade. [We had reports of his demise before the publication of the 1996 Roster.]

VINCE MUNIGA, 65th gunner from Fallbrook CA, sent in his dues for '96 and '97 as did JUANITA M. GETTMAN, 64th [associate?] of Whittier, CA. Paying in advance makes life a bit easier for our treasurer.

EDWIN M. WOJDAK, 64th navigator from Northridge, CA, mailed BILL his dues for '96-'98 plus a bit for help to those who need it. ED also enclosed a copy of the obituary for Sgt. NATHAN MALNEKOFF, 64th from Chicago, who died on June, 26, 1996.

WILLIAM (BILL) HERRE, 63rd pilot from Sacramento, CA, sent in his '97 dues and thanks BILL WILSON for mentioning him in the last newsletter. He points out that he was also rated as a Flight Engineer and flew B-29s and B-50s from 1946-1950 from the D.M.A.F.B. BILL turned 89 last June and is still in good health. He did not make Kissimmee because he was the "Honoree" at a family reunion in Salt Lake City at that time. He promises to make Albuquerque for sure. BILL also has located two other 63rd members:

CMS (Ret) DWIGHT GADBERRY, refueling operator on B-29s and B-50s  
Address: 10610 Barbera Way Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
Phone: 916-635-8695, and

Major (Ret) VIRGIL L. YOUNG, Flight Engineer and Navigator 1946-51  
B-29s - B-50s "Lucky Lady II" Flight Engineer  
[ Lucky Lady II, a B-50A, landed at Carswell Air Force Base, Fort Worth, TX,  
on March 2, 1949 completing the first non-stop round-the-world flight.  
It was fully armed and carried a crew of 13 in its 94 hour 1 minute flight.

It was refueled four times by KB-29 tankers. The B-50 was an improved B-29 fitted with more powerful engines.]

Address: RD #2 Saegertown, PA 16433

Phone: 814-333-2447

It is sad to report the passing of EDWARD (NED OR ED) J. LEARY, 63rd, on May 6, 1996. His widow FLORENCE, N. Myrtle Beach, SC, sent word to us of this tragedy. Equally sad is the passing of ALLEN H. NELSON, Jr., 64th pilot from San Angelo, TX. He is survived by his widow, ALENE. Our prayers go out to the families and friends of ED and ALLEN and we pray for them and all of the other fine airmen of the 43rd who have gone to their final reward.

ROBERT R. PLOWMAN, 63rd bombardier from Houston, TX, writes to BILL WILSON, that they had a pleasant conversation the other day [Letter dated July 8th] and that he is not going to give up in finding that crash picture. [Let us in on what crash, etc.] He paid his '96 and '97 dues and hopes to see BILL at the next reunion.

WILLIAM A. AUSTIN, 403rd photographer, wonders if old age might be the cause of slipping up on dues payment. He enclosed his '96 dues and sends his 'thanks' to BILL WILSON for all that he has done for the 43rd Bomb. Association.

Headquarters pilot, DAVID (DAVE) W. HASSEMER of San Antonio, TX, writes that he happened to notice the '95 on his mailing label with the last newsletter and wants the treasurer to use his enclosed check to bring him up to date. [How easy it is to forget the yearly dues, but when you attend the reunions, IRENE WATSON gives you a gentle reminder. She and BOB spend countless hours manning the registration desk. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for their attention to so many matters at each reunion.]

From Sweetwater, TX, GERALD D. RUNYARD forwarded his dues for two years. He says that because he is getting too deaf to hear at the reunions, he has not been attending them. [Gerald, we are all pretty much in the same fix, but the P.A. systems have generally been top notch at the last reunions.] He cites that fact that most of his his best buddies have gone to their final resting places and the urge to attend is not there like it used to be. He misses SID LEE, DAVE WITTKOPP, BRIAN HASTINGS, but notes that JOE PECORARO, 403rd, is still with us. We hope that you will join us again in the future, GERALD.

DOMINICK V. ANGERAME reminisces a bit with his letter accompanying his dues. This of course was sent to BILL WILSON. He says the 43rd Bomb Group was the best and the newsletters help keep our memories alive, so keep up the good work. DOMINICK served in the 63rd Squadron from Bangor, ME, to Owi Island. He served as air craft electrician and mechanic from 1942 - 1944. In addition to working on B-17s and B-24s, he helped assemble P-40s at Richmond Airfield just outside of Sidney when he first landed in Australia. DOMINICK says he was on that first detail that set up the base at Mareeba where they had no planes, no tents, no mess hall; just 'us.' He recalls that being at Mareeba when Major Bill BENN arrived with his planes.

LORRAINE STEWART writing for CHARLES, 65th of Ridge, NY, reports that with CHARLIE'S health not being the "greatest," she is not always able to keep up with everything that has to be taken care of although she managed to send in dues for the years '96 & '97. They hoped at the time to make the Kissimmee reunion. LORRAINE says that they had become close friends with the late FRED and MARGARET BLAIR also of Ridge after the BLAIRS had returned from Australia. The untimely death of FRED BLAIR, 63rd bombardier, occurred earlier this year as reported in a previous newsletter. LORRAINE says CHARLES "went very peacefully. A blessing for him but tough on MARGARET."



403rd photographer, PAUL R. SEYMOUR of N. Tonawanda, NY, sent in his dues for '96 and '97 along with two fine photos of B-17s from the 43rd. B-17E-41-2458 is parked in a revetment at Jackson Drome along with three jeeps. There is nose art on the plane but even with my magnifying glass I can only make out what appears to be a reclining nude or semi-nude female and the words "YANKEE COOLER." The other is photo of B-17-124 353 in flight. The name on the nose of the plane appears to be "CAP'N & KIDS." There is no way I can reproduce these for the newsletter. I had never met PAUL, but he lives less than 4 miles from here so I gave him a call. We chatted a bit and promised to get together in the near future. I urged him to send photos of nose art, of which he says he has a great deal, to LARRY HICKEY. Now LARRY will have another excuse if the history is later than promised. Probably a good many of you B-17 men can recall those two planes.

"In going through some old records I found the cover of the old Liberty magazine dated Jan. 15, 1944 price 10 cents with General KINNEY'S picture in color. The reminds me, I should pay my dues. Also found 5th AF yearbook (Down Under)." That quote comes from a note FRANK L. JANKECH, 64th line chief of Hartland, WI, wrote in a belated birthday card modified for 'dues overdue' he sent to BILL WILSON. Dues are always welcome and never considered late FRANK.

CHUCK RIEFENBERG, 65th flight/chief from Hillside, IL, was unable to make the reunion in Kissimmee. He will try for next year and sends his best to everyone along with his dues through '97.

AL O'BRIEN wrote to thank BILL for inserting in the newsletter his inquiry regarding his brother, 2nd Lt. JAMES E. O'BRIEN, 63rd, MIA on Dec. 7, 1944. He says that several members of the 64th contacted him by phone or mail and helped him fill in some of the blanks from those days in WWII. He thanks ORION ROGERS, 63rd pilot, FRED PETERS, 63rd personnel, GEORGE SETHER, 63rd rad/oper, ALBERT WEBBER, 63rd engineer, JAMES SMITH, 63rd rad/oper, JOHN GWYNN, 65th bombardier, and ROLAND FISHER, 63rd pilot, and hopes he did not leave out anyone. BILL was to contact you about becoming an associate member of the Association. You may order the Warpath Across the Pacific from LARRY HICKEY, President, International Research and Publishing Corp. at P.O. Box High Mar Station Boulder, CO 80307. This newsletter will keep you posted regarding ordering the history of the 43rd. No doubt the address will be the same as for the other book.

Also in the last newsletter was an appeal from JAMES J. IVERSON for information regarding his uncle, JAMES J. FRANKLIN, pilot in the 65th KIA on May 18, 1945. He heard from HENRY LEWIS, pilot 65th, EARL RESHAW, pilot 65th, as well as JIM CHERKAUER. I received a very nice letter from him telling me what he had learned and what he had assembled in memory of his late uncle. He had hoped to attend the reunion this year, but both HENRY and I did not find him in Kissimmee.

Yes, DELEDA MONTGOMERY, associate 63rd of Colorado Springs, CO, you sent your dues to the right person. You will continue to receive the newsletter. Rosters are not published each year, but if you did not receive the 1996 Roster, please contact BILL WILSON. His address is shown on the front page of this edition of the newsletter.

NORM H. O'BRIEN, Jr., 63rd from Perrysburg, OH, who hates to write letters and can't even remember the last one he wrote before sending one to BILL with a check to cover his dues for '96, '97 and '98. NORM says he did not know when he had last paid his dues, so he sent in for three years. If you did not receive your 1996 roster NORM, then contact BILL again. See the previous remarks in this newsletter. NORM says that he sent to someone, in the association presumably, some pictures of the Japanese white Bettys with the green crosses which landed at Ie Shima on Sunday, August 19, 1945. He can't remember to whom he sent these along with a scarf, with the 63rd Sea Hawk on it, he had made at Clark Field.

No one ever acknowledged receiving these. He thinks that was about 3 years ago. Fess up if you received these from NORM. He looks forward to "THE BOOK" being ready this fall. It will be very late fall at the best.

It appears that the planning for the 1998 reunion in Springfield, MA, is going along smoothly. RUSS BURNETT, 64th flight engineer, and JANE are hosting this affair and hope to make it as good as any we have had.

Keep your eyes peeled for a new address in the near future as our immediate past president, MAX OSBORN and FRAN are in the process of moving from Wyoming, site of last year's reunion, to Arizona.

One new feature at the Kissimmee reunion was the cancellation of squadron photos in favor of a Reunion Souvenir Memory Book. During the Saturday night dinner/dance, everyone was requested to have his or their portrait taken for the memory book. Now we will have a photo book showing the names of those pictured. This was a great idea. Didn't JIM and AUDREY DIEFFENDERFER do a great job in planning and hosting this fabulous reunion. Wasn't it nice that Mother Nature cooperated at just the right time.

My first letter addressed to me as secretary comes from RUSS and JANE BURNETT with some remarks about the recent reunion. They say "They really enjoyed the reunion in its entirety and want to express their appreciation to JIM and AUDREY and all of the others who worked to make it such a success." RUSS thought that the choice of a golf course wouldn't have been better since it had fewer water hazards. JANE says that the ladies' program was entertaining as it took the 'girls' back to their youth. They found that JANICE OLSON and the ALFRED HAGEN tapes to be very interesting. The weather was perfect for the Luau. They say the banquet was delicious, but seeing old friends again was the best. "Our 43rd is a great family." RUSS mentions the trip to "Fantasy of Flight" and how we were moving about in a B-24 and a B-17 like in days long gone. [See next paragraph.]

Friday the 13th may be unlucky to some but it was very lucky for five of us at the reunion. On that morning DAYT BLANCHARD, 65th pilot, RUSS BURNETT, JIM CHERKAUER, RUSS EDWARDS, 63rd flight engineer and BYRLE MILLER, 64th radio operator, paid a visit to 'Fantasy of Flight,' a new war plane museum. We were all wearing our new 43rd caps with each squadron shown on the front design and had just completed a tour through a B-17 which simulated an actual bombing mission. This alone was a thrill. As you walked through the bomb bay towards the forward cabin, the bomb bay doors opened and you could see the target below and burst of ack ack just under the plane. It was so realistic that each of us grabbed onto a rope netting they had on each side of the walkway so as not to fall out of the plane. When we entered the big hanger with all of its various planes, most of them still in flying condition and are flown to air shows and such, we were all looking at a B-24J. Unfortunately, it was roped off so that you could not get right up to it. An engineer/mechanic came up to us and asked what we had flown during WWII. When we said a B-24, he opened a way to the plane and let just the 5 of us go through it. We spent well over an hour in this plane and discussing it with our host. It was in for its yearly inspection and should be back flying in a couple of months. Believe me it was rather difficult for us to get up to the cockpit as most of us were heavier and all of us a good deal older than when we last flew this big bird. The nose art had been removed, but later we found that this plane was formerly called "Delectable Doris." In 1989 it had flown into the Greater Buffalo International Airport for a ceremony honoring crews of B-17s and B-24s from WWII. I have a number of photos of a group of us standing by the nose art at that time. We were all thrilled with this experience. It sure brought back some memories. From what we have heard no other 43rd Assoc. members had this thrilling experience.

THE LAST MISSION : An Eyewitness Account by Jim B. Smith of the 20th Air Force tells



how the B-29s won the war in the Pacific with 779 air strikes beginning August 13th, 1945, four days after Nagasaki. For anyone interested, it is on sale at \$40 per copy including shipping and autographed by the author. Send check to: Jim B. Smith- PO Box 892, El Segundo, CA 90245-0892. Allow 4 weeks for shipping. [I wonder what he thought the 5th Air Force was doing in that war?]

**This new boy, Jim Cherkaver, is super good. This outfit will have a little class in the newsletter now. George White will say things are looking up now that the Yankees have taken over.**

A letter from Janice Olson-- hopefully you may can help her:

1. Would the person who loaned his camera to Janice Olson at the Flying Tigers Museum during the reunion in Orlando please identify himself to her? The film has been developed and some reunion pictures were included that she would like to return to him.

2. Also, would the person who phoned Janice Olson to let her know that he had some information on the B-17 Salisbury's Silly Saps, please identify himself again? Janice apologizes for mis-placing the name of the person who called and would very much like to speak with him.

3. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy of the video "Lest We Forget", which was the opening segment to Janice Olson's presentation, may do so by sending \$17.00 to Hi-Desert Cablevision. The address is: Mr. Jeff Salkin; Hi-Desert Cablevision; 12490 Business Center Drive; Victorville, California 92392

The video is a short(a little over five minutes) commemorative piece to some of the 43rd Bomb Group B-17 crew who lost their lives in New Guinea. Janice Olson had originally commissioned the piece to be produced by a studio, but Hi-Desert picked up the costs as their way of saying "thank you" to Janice and the 43rd Bomb Group.

If each of the 43rd Bomb Group members could send a "thank you" card or letter to the people at Hi-Desert, it would be a thoughtful gesture and much appreciated. When you do, please include what you did in New Guinea, your squadron and years you were there. A few people have already sent this info to Hi-Desert and they have thoroughly enjoyed the material.

4. An open letter to everyone:

Dear 43rd Bomb Group:

Once again you had a wonderful and successful reunion in Orlando, and I was lucky enough to be a part of it all.

Your warmth and hospitality is becoming legend, as attested to by Mrs. Roger Ramey and her son, who made their first visit to the 43rd this year.

And it's your warmth, hospitality, and encouragement which inspires me to continue my work in discovering and sharing your history. Thank you for all that you did for us 50 years ago and more, and for all the support that you continue to give me today.

A "thank you" note from Edith Lombardi-- Edith and her sisters Besty and Dot Martin had a great time at the reunion. Everyone was so nice to them and made them feel welcomed. You ladies added to the reunion, please come again. Edith and Betsy are Dennis Lombardi's(403rd adj.) sisters.

THE REUNION IN KISSIMMEE WAS VERY GOOD. JIM & AUDREY DIEFFENDERFER AND BILL & VIRGINIA HOOVER ARE SOMETHING ELSE. THEY DID A GREAT JOB! THANKS FROM ALL THE TROOPS. A FEW THINGS ARE CHANGING. THIS WAS MORE OR LESS THE B17 CREWS AND NOW ITS TIME TO CHANGE OVER TO THE B24S-- THE GROUP MEETING REPLACED ME AS SECRETARY AND APPOINTED RUDOLPH JAMES CHERKAVER TO TAKE MY PLACE GETTING OUT NEWS LETTER AND ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS, ETC.. I'LL STILL KEEP UP WITH THE MONEY. JIM CAN SPELL, KNOWS ABOUT THE KINGS, ENGLISH, AND LOTS OF THINGS I'M A LITTLE SHORT ON. HE WILL BE GREAT. I WANTED BREEZY TO TAKE IT BACK OVER, BUT THAT WASN'T MEANT TO BE. BREEZY & I MAY GO FISHING OR SOMETHING. BOB WATSON WENT ON SICK CALL AND GOT PULLED OFF VICE-PRESIDENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1997--A GOOD BOY, ANOTHER B24 FELLOW, SAM COMMONS, IS TAKING OVER VICE-PRESIDENT. JIM HARCROW QUIT AS A DIRECTOR FOR THE 65TH AFTER 10 OR 12 YEARS. SAM IS MOVING UP AS VICE-PRESIDENT AND THE NEW DIRECTORS FOR THE 65TH ARE L.C. "CHALKY" WHITE AND ELDON "BUD" LAWSON---GREAT NEW CREW. BIG THINGS WILL SURELY HAPPEN.

DALE F. BARR, SR. PASSED AWAY IN THE ST. LOUIS AIRPORT ON THE 8TH OF SEPTEMBER. MARY & DALE WERE EN ROUTE TO THE REUNION. DALE WAS PAST PRESIDENT, MY VICE-PRESIDENT FOR FOUR YEARS--ETC---- DALE WAS SURE THE 43RD & 5TH AIR FORCE WERE PART OF THE 403RD. I NEVER COULD GET HIM TO BELIEVE THERE WAS ANYTHING BIGGER THAN THE 403RD. THE WEEK BEFORE THE REUNION, DALE SENT ME A LETTER SAYING IF NO ONE WOULD TAKE THE SECRETARY JOB HE WOULD HELP ME-- NEARLY EVERY MONTH A CALL FROM DALE...DO YOU NEED ANY HELP? DALE WAS ON JEAN JACK'S CREW ALONG WITH HARRY URBAN. I ALWAYS THINK OF DALE GETTING SHOT DOWN THE SAME NIGHT AS GENERAL WALKER--- HE SAID THEY WERE ON THE BEACH WHEN A CAT BOAT LANDED AND WANTED TO KNOW IF THEY WERE PART OF GENERAL WALKER'S CREW. DALE TOLD THEM NO. JEAN JACKS SAID HE THOUGHT THEY WERE GOING TO GET LEFT. FINALLY, THEY TALKED THEM INTO A RIDE BACK TO 7 MILE. OUR LOVE GOES OUT TO MARY AND DALE'S FAMILY-- GOD BLESS YOU.

AUSTIN "MATT" MATTESON, 65TH PILOT, NEEDS A LITTLE INFORMATION ON DUES. PRICE- \$15.00 FOR ONE YEAR. A YEAR IS FROM JANUARY TO JANUARY-- SEE? IT'S NOT TOO HARD TO REMEMBER. BUT MATT SENT ME A JOKE YOU MIGHT LIKE. THIS COUPLE (43RD PEOPLE), DECIDED TO SPICE UP THEIR LOVE LIFE AND BOUGHT A WATERBED. AFTER A MONTH THEY BEGAN CALLING IT THE DEAD SEA. TAKE CARE, MATT.

M.T. HESTERMAN, 65TH BOMBARDER, HAS A NEW ADDRESS: 7142 E. BRIARWOOD DR. ENGLEWOOD, COLORADO 80112. PAID HIS DUES SO I WOULD NOT REFER TO HIM AS "DEAD BEAT" HESTERMAN. BE A GOOD BOY--MAURICE.

JOHN ROCHE, 64TH OPERATIONS, WANTS TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS, GOOD WISHES, ETC.. WHILE HE WAS ON SICK CALL. MISSED THE LAST TWO REUNIONS BUT IS GOING TO MAKE NEW MEXICO NEXT FALL. THAT'S THE WAY TO GO-- JOHN! HANG TOUGH!

MARVIN TAITCH, 403RD PILOT, REPORTS THE PASSING OF HIS WIFE, GLENNA, DECEMBER 1993. THE ROSTER DOESN'T SAY, BUT MARV WAS A PILOT. LIKE 44 MISSIONS-- LET MARV KNOW WE WILL NEED HIM IN NEW MEXICO NEXT YEAR.

SCOTT G. KIRBY, 1424 CANTERBURY ROAD, RALEIGH, NC 27608  
PHONE- 919-781-6222, IS THE SON OF NEILL KIRBY--63RD. SCOTT IS A DOCTOR AND HAS JOINED UP WITH US. WELCOME ABOARD SCOTT--

CLESTON & GRACE DROWN, 64TH, HAVE A NEW ADDRESS. IT'S 605 COACHWOOD CENTRAL, LEESBURG, FLORIDA 34748.

WADE & BURNELL KEHR, 403RD WAIST GUNNER, ALSO HAVE A NEW ADDRESS. IT'S 715 SHERRY-DAWN DRIVE, DALLASTOWN, PA 17313

KENT & MARHTA ZIMMERMAN, 63RD PILOT, ARE NEW MEMBERS: 4917 RAVENSWOOD DR. APT.#1741, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78227-4357. THEIR PHONE IS: 210-674-6389. LET THEM KNOW IT'S NICE TO HAVE THEM.

JOHN & ELEANOR YEAGER, 403RD, HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER: 503-391-8267 GIVE THEM A CALL AND SEE IF IT WORKS.

VINCENT J. SARNICOLA, 64TH, IS A NEW MEMBER. PAUL LEDGER FOUND HIM. VINCENT HAS A WIFE, BUT I HAVEN'T MET HER. WHEN I DO, I'LL LET YOU KNOW HER NAME.

**ROBERT "BOB" HILL**, 63RD TAIL GUNNER, PASSED AWAY SEPTEMBER 11TH, 1996. THE FUNERAL IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH. OUR WARMEST THOUGHTS GO OUT TO IMOGENE AND THE REST OF BOB'S FAMILY.

**LEONARD "SYMMRE" SYMROSKI**, 63RD PILOT, WROTE **JIM DIEFFENDERFER** ABOUT HIS MOVE FROM FLORIDA TO CALIFORNIA--IT'S FOR THE BIRDS--FLORIDA IS MUCH BETTER. ON TOP OF THAT, AS SOON AS SYMMRE MOVED, JIM PUT ON A GREAT REUNION IN FLORIDA. SEEMS LIKE THINGS JUST HAPPEN THAT WAY. SYMMRE SAYS "HI" TO ALL AND HIS NEW ADDRESS IS 526 NORTHERN AVE, MILL VALLEY, CA 94941.

**MAX AXELSON**, 403RD PILOT CHAIRMAN & COACH OF THE 43RD GOLF TEAM SENDS IN THE FOLLOWING REPORT:

WE HAD A NICE TURNOUT OF 30 "SWINGERS" AT BEAR CREEK, JUST 11 MILES FROM OUR HYATT ACCOMODATIONS. WE DID MISS SOME OF OUR STALWARTS FROM LAST YEAR AT CHEYENNE...GLEN LEWIS, JOHN BEHRNS, GREGG ROSS, JESSE FULTON, ART & JINNY DURBEK. WHERE WERE YOU FOLKS?!! WE REALLY DID MISS YOU AND OTHERS! WE WILL EXPECT TO SEE YOU AT ALBUQUERQUE! WE PLAYED AN EXECUTIVE COURSE ( PAR 60) AND WITH CALLAWAY ADJUSTMENTS... EVERYONE SCORED FROM 57-67! WE HEREBY CHALLENGE THE 90TH, 22ND AND ANY OTHER BOMB GROUP, OF OUR ERA, TO A MATCH ANYWHERE IN TEXAS!!

**THE WINNERS:** **SAM COMMONS**, YOUR NEW VP, AND **EMIL LANGE** TIED FOR LOW GROSS WITH 65'S. (GREAT SCORES) WE TOOK THE FIRST THREE HOLES, LOW SCORE, TO DECIDE THE WINNER.

SAM WAS ONE BELOW EMIL! EMIL WASN'T TOO DISPLEASED, SINCE HE HAD A HOLE IN ONE!! MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER THAT EMIL!! OUR STALWART, JIM HARCROW SNUCK IN ONE CLOSEST TO THE PIN, AND YOUR BELOVED, WARMHEARTED, CONSIDERATE GOLF CHAIRMAN, MAX, (NOT OSBORN) HAD THE LONGEST DRIVE.

**J.T. BRITTON**, 65TH PILOT & PRESIDENT OF OUR BRIDGE CLUB, GAVE ME A REPORT ON THEIR PROGRAM. WELL-- I LOST IT OR SOMETHING-- I CAN'T FIND IT. J.T., TRY IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR IN ALBUQUERQUE; NEW FELLOW WILL GET IT RIGHT.

**WALDO SCHAUWEKER**, 64TH PILOT, REPORTS GREAT NEWS. HE IS STILL WITH US-- OUR COMPUTER DIDN'T MAKE MAILING LABELS FOR THE NEW ROSTER OR NEWS LETTER, BUT WE GOT IT FIXED TODAY AND WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE WALDO BACK. HE GAVE US A LITTLE HELP ON THE WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB, DAYTON, OHIO REUNION.

**JERRY L. WALKER** IS A NEW MEMBER. HIS ADDRESS IS P.O. BOX 2192 TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA 74465, PHONE- 918-456-4292. GIVE HIM A CALL- A CHANCE TO TALK TO A REAL "OKIE"!

**ANGUS & HAZELL TAFF**, 64TH PILOT, HAZEL REPORTS ANGUS IS IN GOOD HEALTH BUT ALZHIEMERS HAS HIM IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE- DOESN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING. SHE WANTED TO BRING HIM TO THE REUNION, BUT HAD TO CALL IT OFF. DROP HAZEL A NOTE-- SHE NEEDS IT. HANG TUFF, GIRL

**ORION & MARY RODGERS**, 63RD PILOT, WERE ALL SET FOR THE KISSIMMEE REUNION, THEN AT THE LAST THEY HAD TO CANCEL OUT- WELL, NOW THEY ARE GOING TO TRY IT AGAIN AT ALBUQUERQUE. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

**HENRY J. LEWIS**, 65TH, REMINDS ME HE DID NOT COME OVER ON THE QUEEN MARY, DID NOT FLY A B-17, AND HAS NEVER BEEN IN BANGOR, MAINE, BUT IS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER GROUP. THE BUNCH THAT STARTED COMING OVER IN JULY, 1943. THE REPLACEMENTS-- THANK GOD FOR THEM-- FOR SURE THE 43RD BOMB GROUP!! IT IS YOUR TIME TO HAVE A PLACE IN THE SUN-- I'M GOING TO THE HOUSE.

**JAMES E. MC COY**- 2 SHADY LANE, WASHINGTON, PA 15301-- PHONE-412-225-9046-- WAS IN THE 403RD IN 1944 & 1945 AND WANTS TO JOIN OUR GROUP. JAMES- JUST SEND \$15.00 FOR '97 DUES AND YOU ARE IN. A HELL OF A LOT BETTER DEAL THAN YOU GOT IN 1944! GOOD TO HAVE YOU.

**GARLAND H. GRIMSLEY-- 65TH, 1945-- NEEDS TO FIND HIS OLD CREW. TO HELP GARLAND, CALL OR WRITE TO HIM AT 2513 STUART STREET, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32304 PHONE: 904-576-1544. HE IS ALSO A NEW MEMBER.**

**MARGARET M. BLAIR- 63RD. FREDDY BLAIR'S WIFE HAS A NEW ADDRESS: 800 HAWTHORNE ROAD, KINGS PARK, NY 11754.**

**JOHN A. EDMISTEN HAS A NEW ADDRESS: 13582 92ND ST, LIVE OAK, FL 32060.**

**HAL C. WINFREY, 65TH PILOT, HAS A NEW ADDRESS: LONGWOOD APTS. 3131 NORTH DRUID HILLS ROAD, APT# 9102, DECATUR, GA 30033- PHONE: 404-320-1430. MAUDE HAS ALZHEIMERS AND IS IN A SPECIAL CARE SECTION OF ARBOR TERRACE.**

**AL O'BRIEN-528 N. STONE AVE, LAGRANGE PARK, IL 60526 PHONE 708-354-2168. AL IS THE BROTHER OF JAMES E. O'BRIEN, KIA IN THE PHILLIPINES DEC. 7TH, 1944. JAMES WAS IN THE 63RD SQD. IF YOU RECALL JAMES, LET AL KNOW. HE WANTS TO HEAR OF THIS BROTHER'S ACTIONS.**

**RICHARD T. RUSSELL, JR. - 10927 WOODLAND FALLS, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066. DICK WAS A RADIO OPERATOR /GUNNER ON B24'S 65TH SQ. HE STARTED MAY 1944 AT PORT MORSEBY, NEW GUINA. 43 MISSIONS AND TWELVE MONTHS LATER, HE WAS AT CLARK FIELD. DICK LIVES ACROSS THE RIVER FROM DOC. MILTON GUSACK SO HAS KEPT UP WITH US. HE, LIKE ALL OF US, THINKS DOC GUSACK IS THE GREATEST EVER.**

**DIANE HARPER, DAUGHTER OF BETTY & RUBY ERNEST JOHNSTON, 65TH NAVAGATOR, ADVISES THAT RUBY PASSED AWAY JULY 18TH, 1995 AND THAT HER MOTHER PASSED AWAY APRIL 25TH, 1996. DIANE, WE OF THE 43RD BOMB GROUP JOIN YOU IN OUR LOSS. GOD BLESS YOU.**

**RICHARD BENNETT, PILOT 65TH, 1943--DICK LIVES AT 1174 BALCONES DRIVE FREDRICKSBURG, TEXAS 78624. HE HOPES TO RENEW SOME OLD FRIENDSHIPS AND MAKE SOME NEW ONES--GLAD TO HAVE YOU, DICK.**

**LEWIS H.DAWS, 65TH, A.C. MAINT, REPORTS THE PASSING OF HIS WIFE DOREEN ON AUGUST 17TH, 1996. DOREEN & LEWIS WERE MARRIED JULY 18TH, 1942 IN SYDNEY AUSTRALIA. THEIR LAST TRIP TO AUSTRALIA WAS IN 1992. ALZHEIMER'S HAD SET IN, BUT SHE MADE THE TRIP FINE. LEWIS HAS CORRESPONDED WITH BRUCE HOY AND LARRY HICKLEY SEVERAL TIMES. HE HOPES THE BOOK WILL MAKE IT FOR CHRISTMAS.**

**WALTER & MELISSA BILL, 403RD NAVIGATOR, MADE THE REUNION THIS YEAR, THEY HAVE MISSED THE LAST THREE. WALTER MAKES ME THINK OF DOC BRYANT, CHARLEY BELLOWS AND SEVERAL OF THE EARLY DAY NAVIGATORS. FUN SEEING THEM.**

**SAM COMMONS, 65TH FLT/ENGR, REPORTS HIS WIFE, HELEN JEAN, WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THE REUNION. THEIR SON IS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. SAM ALSO TELLS OF THE PASSING OF RADIO OPERATOR ALBERT FLORIO, 65TH, ON JULY 9, 1996. AL AND JO ANN HAD EVERYTHING LINED UP FOR THE REUNION, BUT HAD TO CANCEL.**

**ROBERT & ALVILDA LEIBNER ALSO HAD TO CANCEL PLANS FOR KISSIMMEE, BUT SAM SHOWED UP AND WAS A BIG HELP.**

**GERALD M. GEIGER - 10011 ALLENWOOD WAY, SANTEE, CALIFORNIA 92071-1604. GERALD IS A RETIRED NAVY PERSON IS TRYING TO FIND OUT ABOUT HIS HERO. HIS UNCLE, LT. WALTER JAMES BINIUS WAS A BOMBARDIER ON A B17 AND PERHAPS A B-24. LT. BINIUS SERVED IN THE 43RD IN 1942-3. AN OLD NEWS RELEASE STATED HE WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR BY GEN. KINNEY FOR ACTION OFF BUNA FOR SINKING A JAP DESTROYER. MAJOR BENN WAS HIS SQUADRON C.O. IF YOU 63RD FELLOWS CAN HELP THIS NAVY FELLOW, I'M SURE HE WILL BE GLAD TO BUY YOU A BEER SOME DAY. AIR FORCE, LET'S SHOW THE NAVY JUST WHAT WE CAN DO!**

**MAX AXELSON, 403RD PILOT, HAS COMPLETED HIS WORK ON THE MEMORIAL AT LACKLAND AFB IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. THE MEMORIAL FUND IS DOWN TO 3.06 AND WILL BE TRANSFERED TO THE REGULAR ACCOUNT AND CLOSED. WE HAVE PLACED SEVEN MEMORIALS ALL OVER THE USA AND AUSTRALIA. MAREEBA, AUSTRALIA, QUEEN MARY, LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA, WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB- DAYTON, OHIO, BANGOR MAINE, NORFOLK, VA AFB, COLORADO SPRINGS, AND LACKLAND AFB, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. THE ONLY PLACE WE MISSED WAS A LOCATION GEORGE WHITE WAS PUSHING FOR-- THE BROOKLYN NAVY YARD-- THAT'S WHERE GEORGE ENTERED THE SERVICE.**

**DICK WOOD**, 63RD RAD/NAV, WRITES HE MADE A RUN TO LAS VEGAS TO THE WWII NIGHT FIGHTERS REUNION. THE COSTS IN LAS VEGAS HAVE NOT COME DOWN; TOOK TWO WEEKS AFTER HE CAME BACK TO SAVE UP ENOUGH TO BUY A STAMP. DICK LOOKED GOOD IN KISSIMMEE-- HOPEFUL HE IS HITTING ON ALL FOUR.

**BILL & MARY EATON**, 403RD FLT/ENGR, SEND IN DUES AND A REPORT ON THIER FAMILY. MARY IS ON SICK CALL. BILL IS STAYING CLOSE IN CASE MARY NEEDS HIM. BILL HAS HAD A PRETTY ROUGH TIME OF IT THIS YEAR. DROP HIM A NOTE AND LET HIM KNOW WE ARE ALL THINKING OF HIM. BILL HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET MRS. RAMEY TO A REUNION FOR SOME TIME. WELL, SHE MADE IT THIS YEAR. WISH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN THERE. THE 43RD, NOT JUST THE 63RD, I THINK, FLEW MISSIONS WITH THE 19TH BOMB GROUP IN SEPTEMBER 1942. CHECK IT OUT BILL, I'M SURE THIS IS CORRECT.

**WILLIAM DON GALLAGHER**, 64TH, WANTS TO JOIN UP WITH US. I'LL SEND HIM A CARD TO FILL OUT. SOME OF YOU EARLY 64TH PEOPLE SEND DON A NOTE AND LET HIM KNOW WE WANT HIM. HIS ADDRESS IS 4727 EASTGATE AVENUE, DAYTON, OH 45420-3311 PHONE 513-254-5049.

**ROBERT MC VEIGH**, 403RD SUPPLY, SENT IN '97 DUES PLUS AN EXTRA \$5.00. BOB & MARIAN ARE RIGHT THERE BY KISSIMMEE AND STILL MISSED ROLL CALL! I THINK THE EXTRA \$5.00 WAS TO MAKE UP FOR MISSING ROLL CALL- SAY, NEXT YEAR NEW MEXICO WILL BE EASY.. NO RED LINE THIS YEAR. SOMEHOW THAT BOY HAS ME TRYING TO GUESS WHAT'S GOING ON.

**GLENN BURGWALD**, 64TH, AT CLARK FIELD & IE SHIMA, MAY WANT TO JOIN -- HE WAS A NAVIGATOR. DROP HIM A LINE AND TELL HIM WE WANT HIM: 528 LEONA LANE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040.

**EDWARD & LILLIAN DALY**, 65TH BOMBARDER, SENT IN '96 DUES AND MADE THE REUNION. HOPE YOU HAD A GREAT TIME!

A LETTER FROM DALE BARR, HE PICKED UP **CHARLES & VALERIE MARVEL**, 403RD PILOT, AT MILLARD AIRPORT, OMAHA. THEY WERE IN THIER PERSONAL BRIGHT YELLOW PLANE. DALE TOOK THEM TO LUNCH AT THE NEW AMERICAN LEGION CLUB. ALSO IN THE MAIL WAS A THANK YOU NOTE FROM MARY BARR FOR THE FLOWERS WE SENT FOR DALE.

**WILLIAM SONDY**, 65TH GUNNER, HIS MAIL HAS BEEN RETURNED MARKED "DECEASED". I HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION.

**BILL & GLORIA ROWLES**, 403RD RAD/OPER, SENT ME A NICE PICTURE OF THEM BY THE ALL-AMERICAN B-24 GOLDEN GIRL. BILL REPORTS IT WAS NICE TO SIT IN THE COCKPIT ONE MORE TIME. ALSO, HE ENDED UP BEING THE GUIDE, ANSWERING ALL THE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE B-24.

NO. 24 SQUADRON ASSC. NEW SOUTH WALES RAAF HAMILTON NSW IS RESTORING A B-24 TO A TAXIABLE STATE. THEY ARE TAKING TWO AND MAKING ONE. THE RAAF HAD PARTS OF ONE AND THE 403RD, 43RD BOMB GROUP HAD A B-24D-42-41091 LEFT IN RAMU VALLEY, PAPAU, NEW GUINEA, DECEMBER 23, 1943. IT SEEMS SOME JAPS SHOT IT UP A LITTLE. THE B-24 WAS DOING A BIT OF WORK AT CAPE GLOUCESTER. ANYONE REMEMBER WHO LEFT IT THERE? IT WASN'T GEORGE WHITE, HE PUTS IN THE WATER.

**PAUL LEDGER**, 63RD SGT/MAJ, IS DOING A GREAT JOB FINDING OUR TROOPS. ONE IS **WILLIAM H. SKIDMORE**, 63RD. HIS ADDRESS IS 11691 ST. ROUTE 93 JACKSON, OH 45640-8821 PHONE: 614-286-1930. BILL LOST HIS WIFE OF 49 YEARS AND IS STILL TRYING TO ADJUST. YOU FELLOWS THAT REMEMBER HIM DROP HIM A NOTE, AND LET HIM KNOW THAT WE WANT HIM.

**RUSS BURNETT**, 64TH ENGR, ALONG WITH WIFE JANE, KEEPS ME UP TO DATE ON YANKEE LAND. MAINE SALUTES MEN OF HONOR, MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS, THE NEWSPAPERS WERE FULL OF NEWS ABOUT THE EVENT. **JAY ZEAMER**, OUR 43RD BOMB GROUP FELLOW LOOKS GREAT! I HOPE WE CAN GET J.T. BRITTON AND JAY TOGETHER AGAIN IN NEW MEXICO NEXT YEAR.

WELL, **JIM CHERKAUER**, 65TH PILOT, IS OUR NEW BOY FOR EVERYTHING. GIVE HIM A CHANCE AND HE WILL DO A GREAT JOB. SO WILL ALL THE OTHER NEW FELLOWS. IT'S BEEN FUN FOR MARY LOIS AND ME, BUT IT'S TIME TO CHANGE SO I'LL CLOSE WITH LOVE TO ALL & GOD BLESS!!

MARY LOIS & BILL

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ATTENDED THE ANNUAL REUNION OF THE 43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION WHICH WAS HELD IN KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA ON SEPTEMBER 8-16:

63RD SQUADRON

CLEO CHURCH  
ARTHUR H. MILLARD  
PAULINE DENAULT  
LARRY HOLMES  
DICK & MARGE SALLEY  
WARREN & DOROTHY ADAMS  
CLAIR & JULIA WRIGHT  
MARGERY & FRANK REMANIAK  
STEVE & MADELINE PERRONE  
CHARLES & BEULAH PARKER  
ANTHONY & VIRGINIA DEANGELIS  
ED HARRIS  
ROLAND FISHER  
RICH & MILDRED HOWARD  
MARION R. & HATTIE HAMILTON  
RICHARD H. FOX  
JIM MURPHY  
WM. "RADAR" & VIRGINIA HOOVER  
NEAL & RUDI FUGATE  
ED GAMMILL  
RICHARD & CLEO WOOD  
JIM DIFENDERFER  
AILEE & GEORGE WHITE  
PAUL & MARY LEDGER GUEST-ANN JENKINS  
FRED HAGEN  
HERBERT C. & VIVIAN PFLUEGER  
CHUCK & PAT RAUCH  
FRED W. EPPLEN

FAYE & JIM CHURCH  
LOU & HELEN MIKLOS, JR.  
CARL A. & GINNY HUSTAD  
BOB BUTLER  
ARNE HALVOROSN  
JOWN MACPHERSON  
GAYLORD L. VAN ETEN  
JIM & MARY SMITH  
JIM & OMA WATTS  
GEO & BURTHA BURHOE  
SAM & RACHEL BAYLESS  
BOB & SHIRLEY RICHARDSON  
ROGER & OLGA VARGAS  
KENT & MARTY ZIMMERMAN  
MIKE & JO BACHI  
RUSS & DOT EDWARDS  
KEN & DOROTHY BECKSTROM  
AL & MICKEY FISCHER  
FOLMER & FLORENCE SOGAARD  
RAY & DOROTHY CRAWFORD  
ROBERT BACON  
HELEN L. GREEN  
E. HENRY JAMES  
L.L. & THELMA FLINER  
WILBERT & JEAN HOUSEHOLDER  
RODGER & NORMA LITTLE  
RAYMOND & BETTY GATES

64TH SQUADRON

FRANK BUNTY  
NICK & SHIRLEY ARABINKO  
JOSEPH MANTIGLIA  
GARRETT LAMAR MINNICK  
ROBERT SHULTZ  
PAUL & HELENE BARBUS  
FALCNER & GOLDIE GIFFORD  
ROBERT & EILEEN GOODWIN  
BOB COOPER  
HENRY BLANK  
RALPH & MOZELLE GRUB  
ARVID & CLARE HOUGLUM  
BYRLE & DOLLY MILLER  
SAM WELBORN  
JIM & LUCY NAREM  
LYLE E. & MARY GOLDNER  
JANICE OLSEN  
CHARLES MCCLENNY  
JIM & BOOTS RODELLA  
EMIL & SHIRLEY LANGE  
FRANK & LYNN WAYSSE  
JACKSON & DOT SUE YOUNG

RUSS & JANE BURNETT  
CLEMENT & ELVA KINCAID  
CLETUS ANGERMEIR  
GEORGE & IVY HUNTER  
LYLE & BETTY HEINEKE  
ROGER & AUDREY KETTLESON  
GEORGE & MARJORIE LYNCH  
JOHN & JEANNE PFEIFFER  
NADEANNE FULCOMER  
HARNEY & CLARA MOODY  
WENDELL & PEGGY JONES  
ALBERT MARGOLIS  
ALVIN L. HAAS  
JOE & DOLORES COX  
MARSHALL & BILLYE NELSON  
H.K. ANDY & ANNE ANDERSON  
URBAN C. NYE  
JOE SHEP CHEPULIS  
GEORGE CRITSIMILIO  
SAL & HELEN PARASCONDOLA  
JOHN BUSLINGEN  
HARRY & BARBARA STEVENSON



65TH SQUADRON

BOB & IRENE WATSON  
BILL & MARY LOIS WILSON  
ELDON E. "BUD" & BETTY JOE LAWSON  
JIM EIDE  
ARNOLD & EVELYN HUSKINS  
ED & ELEANOR JONES  
LLOYD "BREEZY" BOREN  
JIM & ANITA C. CHERKAVER  
EDWARD J. PUKAS  
DON WATKINS  
DAYTON & ANN BLANCHARD  
CHUCK & PAT STENGLEIN  
SAM COMMONS  
GUS RAPISARDI  
RAY & BONNIE BETHAL  
EDWIN B. STUELAND  
JULIUS & PEGGY POWELL  
FORREST & SUE SIEGEL  
MAX & FRAN OSBORN  
JIM & BERT HARCROW  
DON MARSAGLIA & BETTY REED  
ANDY & DOROTHY BUROCHONOCK  
LARRY & LOIS MAIN

SAL & EMILY MUSELLA  
CHALKY & ROSEMARY WHITE  
LT. COL. JOHN C. GOOSHERS  
J.D. WILLIAMS  
FRANK & VIRGINIA HOHMANN  
J.T. BRITTON  
REG & LUCY TATRO  
  
LAYTON P. BACON  
MR. & MRS. JOE SHAPURAS  
CLEVE & SHIRLEY ENO  
HERBERT J. & MARIE BRUNE  
BEN & JANE DAWSON  
HANK LEWIS  
ED & LIL DOLY

403RD SQUADRON

ODIS & BARBARA CLEERE  
JOE & CLARA GOSSEAU  
PERCY ALEXANDER  
RANDELL HARRIS-GUEST  
PATSY HARRIS-GUEST  
HOWARD & JANE WAUGH  
BILL & NANCY SOLOMON  
FRED & JANET LLOYD  
HARRY & ESTHER BRADLEY  
JOHN SEDLANDER  
JOE & SALLY SNYDER  
MARY & BOB BYRNE  
MARGARET & MAX AXLESON  
FRANK T. WALDEN

GEORGE & JEAN ANDERSON  
HAROLD & PHYLLIS JOHNSON  
PAUL & ELAINE PASKVAN  
PAUL & JACKIE BAUER  
BERNIE LEE  
JOHN CROSBY  
EVERETT & DOROTHY LIND  
CAROLYN & PAUL COBER  
AL & RENNY SYLVIA  
HAYDEN CLARK  
DON & ELEANOR FENNER  
JERRY & VELL SNYDER  
NEIL & MARLYS FAIRBANKS  
CLINT & MAXINE DOUTHITT  
WALTER & MELISSA BELL

HDQRS SQUADRON

ROBERT S. CUTLER  
CHARLIE FARHA  
C. FRED MC ALESTER  
JAMES & BETTY PETTUS  
HUGH HIMES

TONY IAMPIETRO  
GEORGE CARTER  
GORDON & BETTY BAVOR  
WILSON J. KING  
LATANE RAMEY  
KENT RAMEY