

43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

'KEN'S MEN'



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43rd Bomb Group Association, Inc.

NEWSLETTER 61st Edition
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***** FROM JAMES T. MURPHY, PRESIDENT *****

DICK WOOD had a suggestion which falls in line with his Memorial Service Duties. That is an assembly of a "43rd Gold Star" book. He will begin to assemble lists of as many of our departed members as he can find. That would be done alphabetically by Squadron and Headquarters. This list will begin with those lost during the war, then followed by those lost later. He will use the 43rd history book as his first source.

The "Gold Star" book would be brought to all reunions and placed in the memorabilia room and be available to all. We would ask that it be updated by anyone with information concerning the passing of one of our comrades. That would also be used by DICK as a natural extension of his memorial service duties. DICK is arranging to get as many names as possible from Larry Hickey and will only need names of those who died postwar. We will ask you to review the list at the next reunion. If you have thoughts on any means to make the task easier and more accurate, please drop DICK a line. He will need everyone's help on this very worthwhile project.

I had a note from VIRGIE HALE on Oct. 16. VIRGIE wanted all of us to know that her husband JIMMIE HALE, 63rd Pilot, passed away on Sept. 22. JIMMIE was my third co-pilot, while in combat in New Guinea. A wonderful person and a fine pilot. They have started a scholarship memorial fund in his memory through their church. Contributions can be made to:

Midwest Blvd. Christian Church, 320 N. Midwest Boulevard,
Midwest City, OK 73110.

Jimmie had many friends and classmates in the 43rd.

GIL SENA, 403rd Bomb, has had a stroke and is fighting cancer, but has also volunteered to help in any way in Albuquerque. He lives in Santa Fe. Contact him - he wants to help.

VIRGINIA BROWN, wife of DEAN L. BROWN, 64th Sqd. sent a note telling of DEAN's death on August 28. She also wanted to pay their 1997 dues.

FRED and MAURINE McALISTER, Hdq. Sqd. enjoyed seeing the Shuttle launch. "It was awesome." They will be in Albuquerque.

Dr. SCOTT G. KIRBY, the son of NEILL G. KIRBY, Pilot 63rd (deceased) was one of a number of people found by PAUL LEDGER. I had tried, many years ago, to locate NEILL as he was my second co-pilot in combat with me in the 63rd Sqd. I was unsuccessful then and was very pleased to hear of his location. I contacted him and we have had interesting conversations. He is now one of our most enthusiastic associate members. HANK PORTER, PAUL and NATHAN "JOE" HIRSH have all been in contact with him. He feels like a member of our Group. He recently sent me a very generous check and said, "I would like to support Mr. LEDGER's and the 43rd Bomb Group Associations's efforts in locating more of "our troops." I hope that SCOTT and many of

our young and interested children will be at Albuquerque. We need this vitality. Thanks again PAUL and SCOTT.

I also had a note from **LATANE RAMEY**, wife of Gen. **ROGER RAMEY**, our 43rd Group Commander in 1942 and 1943. She said, "Thank you for encouraging me to attend the reunion of the 43rd. It was the most heart warming experience I have had in many years. I really appreciate the courtesies you and the entire group showed me and my family. Everyone was so gracious and made us feel so welcome. Keep in touch and we will look forward to seeing you in Albuquerque."

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

NEIL FAIRBANKS, 403rd Sqd. from, Anoka, MN, called to report on the 50th Anniversary of the U.S. Air Force to be held in Las Vegas, NV, from April 22nd - 26th, 1997. **NEIL** and **ROGER KETTLESON**, 64th pilot from Las Vegas, are involved with this celebration and the 5th Air Force. **NEIL**, a delegate on the 5th Air Force Memorial Foundation, says that foundation has decided not to have a formal meeting during the 50th anniversary celebration. Registration is \$18 per person, but many exhibits are free. Registration forms are available at: MAILBOX 912A, Silver Springs, MD 20916-9129. The Air Force Association has contracted for rooms in many of the hotels. You would have to reserve any of these rooms through that organization, and they are expensive. The Circus Circus Hotel in Las Vegas had rooms available, which are not under contract with the Air Force Assoc. For reservations call: 1-800-444-2472. **ROGER** says there are rooms available at downtown hotels, but he suggests that you go through a travel agent to make reservations. Air shows will take place over two days. Many foreign nations will be represented with their aerobatics teams participating in addition to those representing our armed forces. A large number of air force chiefs of staff from many nations will be at a symposium and a conference which is by invitation only. Some programs will be open to the public. Among the many invited to this 50th anniversary are **TONY MOONEY**, Mayor of Townsville, Australia, and **GRAHAM JENKINSON**, who was Chairman of Coral Sea '92, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea; Chairman of Victory in the Pacific '95, 50th year anniversary; and Chairman of End of WWII in the Pacific also a 50th year anniversary. **GRAHAM** had made the arrangements for the dedication of the 5th A. F. Monument in Townsville. In 1992, six bronze plaques were added to the memorial; on Mothers Day, 1944, a bronze plaque was added for the Australian and American women who served with the 5th A.F; and in 1995 a plaque was added in memory of the Air Force veterans of the Philippine-Java Campaign.

Sorry fellows for the incorrect address for **JACK NUNNELLEE**, 64th Nose Gunner. He has moved again, and the following address may be correct this time: 5073 Salem-Dallas Hwy. Salem, OR 97304. Jack says that he is doing fine now and feeling so good and is on the go so much, that he just may postpone the knee operation he had planned to have. **JACK** informs me that only the outer wrapping arrived for his last Newsletter. [We are taking care of that Jack..]

GEORGE CRITSIMILIO, 64th Radio Operator from New York City, has asked that I adjust the Group's dues record. He paid for two years while at Kissimmee, but his mailing label shows Pd. '96 only. [Your mailing label should be updated by the time this Newsletter reaches you. This goes for the others of you who may have wondered about this matter. It takes a bit of time to update all of the changes we receive between Newsletters.]

HAROLD W. DONNER, 63rd Gunner, who did not make the reunion at Kissimmee, sends in his dues from Tonawanda, NY. [That's a second 43rd person who lives nearby whom I have never met. I'll have to get out and meet these men.]

"**ART**" **SHELDON OLMSTED**, 64th Pilot from Ft. Worth, TX, sent in his dues with a letter. He served from '44 - '45 and completed 52 missions. **ART** is 80 years young and says he is "ready to go again." He wonders what happened to the history of the 43rd. [See announcement later in this Newsletter.]

ALFRED & DOROTHY O'BRIEN found the Newsletter, his first, quite interesting and were particularly pleased to find included his "Thank You" to those who helped him fill in some of the blanks regarding his brother's time in the SWP. **AL**'s address is 538 N. Stone Ave., La Grange Park, IL 60525.

CHARLES E. MARVEL wants the ROSTER corrected to show that he was a radio operator, not a pilot, when flying B-17s in the 403rd. **CHARLES** says when the Group switched from B-17s to B-24s, he also served as a radar operator. It is true that **CHARLES** is a private pilot and has been for some years. He and **VALERIA** fly about in their own yellow Grumman. They had flown to Omaha to visit **DALE & MARY BARR** and have lunch with them before the Kissimmee reunion. **CHARLES** says that **DALE**

was eager to attend that reunion. [DALE passed away while traveling by air to Kissimmee in September.] DALE and CHARLES attended first grade together and then were in grades 7 - 12 together. Both were among the 132 men who left Grand Island, NE, on Dec. 30, 1941, heading to the Brooklyn Navy Yard where they departed for Australia on Jan. 21, 1942. It was in Australia where they both eventually joined the 43rd Bomb Group. CHARLES flew most of his missions with Major BILL SMITH, 403rd. When BILL became squadron commander of the 65th, CHARLES stayed with SMITH. When the rest of the crew headed back to the States, CHARLES flew a few missions with WALTER BRENNEMAN, 65th, but then transferred back to the 403rd and flew a few missions with Lt. GEORGE PUTNAM before being rotated back to the U.S. CHARLES says that in the short time he was with GEORGE, he developed an extreme amount of respect for him which continues to this day. VALARIA and CHARLES like to visit GEORGE and his wife, MARY JO, whenever possible. Much to their shock, VALARIA and CHARLES, received a letter in late in October from MARY JO telling them that GEORGE had been diagnosed as suffering from inoperable cancer. They called the PUTNAM's at once and talked with both GEORGE and MARY JO. CHARLES says that GEORGE "... sounded like his old self, joyful, upbeat and humorous, but that's the kind of fellow he is ... every day was a good day when you were around GEORGE." CHARLES and others know that GEORGE would like to hear from some of his old buddies. Write to or call: GEORGE PUTNAM, 3411 Ellenmere Drive, Sacramento, CA 96821-6211. Telephone: 1-916-489-7987. Our prayers are with you GEORGE.

ART CURREN, Pilot from Port Townsend, WA, says his name was omitted from the list of attendees at Kissimmee. ART also wants the ROSTER changed to show he was from the 64th Squadron (his preference). [ART, I checked the registration lists for everyone who signed in at the desk. You must have forgotten to sign up. Thanks for your considerate remarks.]

A letter with both some bad news and good news comes from our president, JIM MURPHY. He wrote late in October that he had just returned from San Diego where he had rushed to help his daughter, son-in-law and 17 year old twin grandchildren. The fires that had ravaged so many homes in Carlsbad had destroyed their home completely. JIM says they were lucky as no one was hurt not even the dog. Daughter MARGARET ANNE had wrapped the silver in a blanket and placed it in the swimming pool. It all turned out fine. She also managed to rescue some very precious items which included the jewelry JIM had given her from her mother. The family is now living in a rented home and all feel blessed. JIM also reports the death of DEAN L. BROWN, 64th of Denver, CO.

RICHARD E. WILLIAMS, 403rd Tail Gunner of Rapid City, SD, hopes that he is not getting excited over something insignificant, but he wonders why his name is not on the list of those who attended the Kissimmee reunion from the 403rd squadron. He did arrive at the hotel late on Wednesday and checked in at the memorabilia room early on Thursday. He thinks that it was IRENE WATSON who checked him in and accepted his dues. Although he checked the list of all who had signed in from the 403rd, he says it is possible that he forgot to sign himself in. [BILL WILSON says to tell you that he made his first goof. You did sign in, and you are recorded on the 403rd roster as being at the reunion. Check your current mailing label.]

JANICE OLSON sends along a nice letter and thanks me for taking on the task as secretary. She says that her queries do not duplicate the work done by LARRY HICKEY as he works on the Group's history, but that they collaborate constantly on their work. JANICE asks for your help as she tries to locate some former 43rd members or their families.

Seeking contact with the following B-17 era 64th Squadron members and/or their families for historical research: WILLIAM BENJAMIN COMPTON (O-422916), may have been in the Mobile, Alabama area; STANLEY GORDON SALISBURY (O-408852), believed deceased, but would like to contact his family; FREDERICK F. WESCHE (O-413025), originally from the Rochelle, New Jersey area.

If you have any information as to the whereabouts of these men, or their families, please contact: JANICE OLSON; 15100 Tuscola Road; Apple Valley, California 92307-4863. Fax: 1.619.242.0973.

SAM COMMONS, our VP, sent along word that EILEEN A. DeCESARE, widow of the late VINCENT DeCESARE, SAM's pilot in the 65th, has not been receiving the Newsletter and would like to. [I have alerted our treasurer who handles the mailing.] SAM says that after reading about "Delectable Doris" in the Newsletter, he searched his files and came up with a picture of him and his son Matt standing before the nose art. Each is wearing one of Sam's WWII flight jackets from combat. [Some of us had problems getting one jacket home after the war to say nothing of two jackets.]

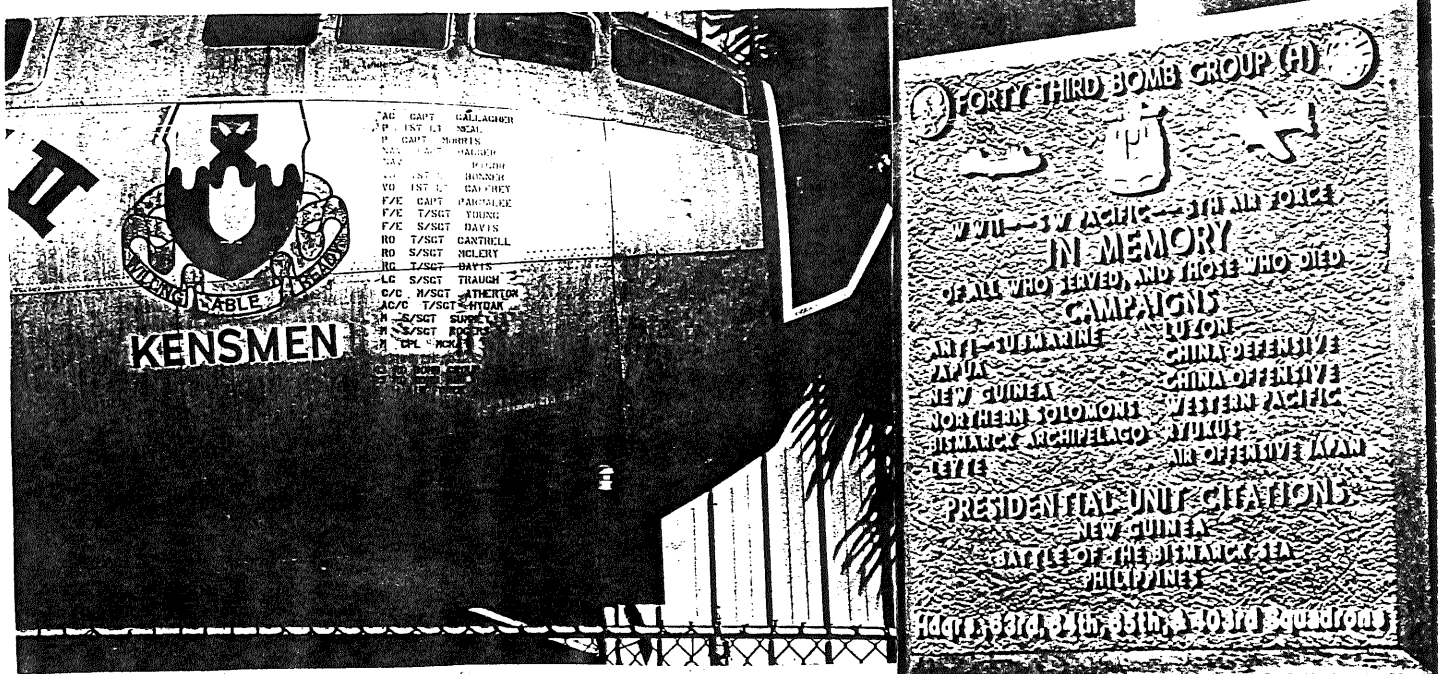
BOB ROTH, 403rd Gunner from Redlands, CA, has mailed in three very informative

letters. The first is a copy of one he had previously sent last May, but the following sad news had not been reported to the Group. BOB says that the three surviving members of ZASTROW's crew were saddened by the death of their engineer, MIRON DUKES of Bartlett, TN, on May 1st. He reports:

Navigator **LEE LOUGHREY** [West Chester, PA], Radioman **BILL SOLOMON** [Sarasota, FL] and Gunner **BOB ROTH** all talked to MIRON from his hospital room, within a day or two of his death. MIRON told me, 'he was going to make this fall's reunion even if he had put wheels on his hospital bed.'
We lost our original co-pilot, **RALPH DEARDORFF**, when we transferred into the 403rd squadron, as he refused to fly in a B-24. When we last heard from RALPH, he was first pilot on a B-17 that had been converted to a armed "biscuit bomber" and was hauling supplies to forward areas beyond the range of fighter protection. We had various co-pilots including **HAROLD THOMPSON** [Albuquerque, NM] who flew with us for many months before transferring to the Fifth Bomber Command as a first pilot. HAROLD is a member of our association, but has never attended a reunion.

BOB goes on to say that after reading Michael J. Claringbould's book, *Black Sunday*, he asked BILL to request, in the Newsletter, information from anyone who flew that day. He had one response, and it was from **HAYDEN CLARK** who wrote that he was flying co-pilot for Captain ZASTROW that Sunday, April 16, 1944. BOB read and re-read HAYDEN's letter in almost disbelief. HAYDEN wrote that BOB's reply sent chills up and down his spine. HAYDEN and VIRGINIA did make Kissimmee this year, but BOB says that he believes pilot **ERWIN C. ZASTROW**, possibly Co-Pilot **RALPH DEARDORFF**, Bombardier **FRED E. VESSELS**, Engineer **LLOYD R. DEMMY**, Radioman **PHILLIP C. TRAVERS**, Tail Gunner **PAUL L. KAYLOR** and MIRON were there in spirit.

In BOB's second letter, he reports that on the way to the Florida reunion he stopped at Hill AFB, Utah, to visit his great-grandson and the great-grandson's mother. (Grandson is in Korea for a year.) While there BOB fell and dislocated his arm and tore up his shoulder. He had to return home for an operation. That is why he and **ARLENE** did not make the Kissimmee reunion. The main reason for his letter is to inform the membership of the association that the 43rd Plaque which was to be placed on the Queen Mary was never placed on her. BOB served as co-host to the last reunion that was to have been held on the Queen Mary while the late **JOSE HOLGUIN** was host. After Disney pulled out of its commitment to the QM and Long Beach and moved the reunion to Anaheim, the Long Beach and LA papers were filled with stories and conjectures about the QM. JOSE and BOB visited the QM. Most of it was sealed off and they were given no explanation for this. BOB says it apparently was due to asbestos. So BOB and JOSE decided to hold off placing the plaque in a ship which rumor had destined for the scrap yards in Japan. So rather than wasting a good plaque, they decided to place it with the B-50, "LUCKY LADY II," which is located in the "Planes of Fame" museum at Chino, CA. BOB had the plaque mounted on a post under the 43rd BG Logo on the plane. Recall that the LUCKY LADY II was cited in the previous Newsletter as the first aircraft to fly around the world nonstop. Included with his letters are of the plaque by LUCKY LADY II as well as others of the plane's nose as well as the plaque. [See the pictures below. Note the names of the crew from the 63rd on nose of plane.]



In his third letter, BOB tells that he returned to the Planes of Fame Museum on December 1st. Everything was as he had left it, but the plaque has turned green from the

smog and foul air. He heard a report on TV recently which indicated the Queen Mary may be towed to Tokyo for a \$20 million restoration and conversion into a hotel. On December 8th, BOB and ARLENE attended the B-17 CC&W Christmas party at the Candle Wood Country Club in Whittier, CA. They were fortunate to be seated with REBECCA HOLGUIN and son CURT along with HENRY GARCIA Jr. and his wife LINDA.

In May, 1985, the late JOSE HOLGUIN, 65TH, had pinned the DFC, Purple Heart and Silver Star on HENRY GARCIA Jr. when Sgt. HENRY GARCIA, who had been shot down over the jungles of New Britain in the South West Pacific 42 years earlier (HENRY Jr. was not yet one year old when his father was lost), was laid to rest with full military honors in Pennsylvania. JOSE, the lone survivor of the crash became a POW. He had vowed to locate the remains of his fellow crewmen. He found them buried on Hawaii and had arranged for them to be returned to their home states and given full military burials. HENRY and LINDA told BOB that, "They would not try to come to Albuquerque, THEY WOULD BE THERE and would bring sisters and other family members." BOB assured them that they would be most welcome as indeed they will be.

He also says that DOROTHY DUKES has always been known to him and other of her friends as MARIE. MARIE explained that DOROTHY is her first name. She used this when teaching school and when she wrote a check for their life time membership. Thus, it has appeared that way in the Roster. BOB says his shoulder is doing great. Please change his area code from (714) to (909) in your ROSTER.

F. NEAL FUGATE, 63rd Pilot from Rancho Bernardo, CA, wants to report in the Newsletter what he reported at Kissimmee at the last reunion. "JACK RUCKERT, of Weems, VA, met an untimely death in July. The cause was a blood clot in his lung after what seemed to be a successful recovery from a bicycle accident." JACK was NEAL's Flight Engineer in B-24s and had planned to attend the last reunion.

Another comrade who has been located and has joined the association is CHESTER P. DANOWS, 64th Top Turret Gunner from Flat Rock, NC. He says that he served on the crew of Lt. HOUGLUM. It is always good to have new members join our association. You are most welcome, and you'll find that our reunions are great for meeting former buddies as well as for making many new friends who served with the 43rd.

FRANK BUNTING, 64th Flight Engineer from Kenner, LA, phoned to say that he discovered our Group when reading a VFW magazine in which an announcement appeared for the Kissimmee reunion. He contacted LLOYD "BREEZY" BOREN, who had placed the announcement, and joined the association. He and his wife MARYLOU attended their first reunion in Kissimmee. FRANK says he met a swell bunch of people at the reunion. Since he is not in the current Roster, you may want to add his address: P.O. Box 70, Kenner, LA 70063; phone 1-504-466-9855. He is also looking for a 64th squadron patch. In case anyone has one to spare, contact him.

Dues keep pouring in to BILL or me. A good way to give us your news is to enclose a short letter with you dues. The address label on the Newsletter seems to be an excellent reminder to many association members of lapsed dues although many of you are sending in dues for 2 or even 3 years. Gathered from such notes are many of the remarks which follow.

HY MARDER 403rd Radio Operator from Pembroke Pine, FL, sends his best wishes to all association members, but especially to those from the 403rd.

Greetings to all come from RALPH POULSEN, 65th Pilot from Oakhurst, CA.

BILL GALIDA, 403rd Armament of Campbell, OH, enjoys the Newsletter. He says to change his phone area code to 330 from 216. The rest of the number, 746-7823 is O.K. BILL also would like his wife's name to be corrected in the Roster to DAYE. He writes, "May God Bless you and yours."

JOSEPH A. GREENWELL, Headquarters from Crosby, TX, says that he and ARLENE missed the reunion in Kissimmee as they had business in Tampa at that time, but they are glad to hear that the reunion was a success. They were heading back to Tampa at the end of October. He returned from an International and both are on the go most of the time. They have been to New Guinea once and to Australia twice. He sends best regards to everyone.

ROBERT L. SHEPPARD, Citations Clerk in the Headquarters Squadron from January '45 until he came home that December, wishes his best to all and was sorry to hear about DALE BARR. BOB hales from Springfield, MO. He enclosed a ZIGGY cartoon with a caption that strikes home to many of us: "The worst thing about the future is that it seems to get here a lot quicker than it used to!!"

WILLIAM F. "BILL" PERKINS Jr., from Kettering, OH, says he joined the 63rd at Port Moresby in early September 1943 and was assigned to Headquarters where he worked with **MIKE LaMUSTA** and **LOUIS LaBLANC** until he came home from Ie Shima in September 1945.

WILLIAM A. SMETTS, 63rd Pilot from Stuart, FL, is another who found the mailing label a good reminder of the need to pay dues. So like many of you he paid up for a few years at one time.

ROCCO ARRUIZZO, 63rd Tail Gunner from Milnesville, PA, says he has missed the past few reunions but 'maybe' next year.

EUGENE "GENE" MURARI, 65th Maintenance, enjoyed reading the newsletters of the past and feels certain that all of the future issues will be enjoyed as well. He hopes to make Albuquerque in '97.

From Tampa, FL, **CHARLIE NUNEZ**, 63rd Gunner and "assistant Putt Putt Engineer" on **ZIMMERMAN'S** crew, reports that he is sorry that he missed the reunion in Kissimmee which is so close to Tampa, but unexpected changes in their plans had to be made due to personal commitments. He hopes to make our next reunion in New Mexico and enjoys the newsletters very much.

403rd Radio Operator **WALTER B. KICHURA** of Chicago, IL, says that he has missed a number of reunions. He has been plagued with cancer, and the ever ongoing chemotherapy restricts his travel plans. **WALTER** says that he misses his old friends **MAX AXELSEN**, **GEORGE ANDERSON** and **PAUL BAUER**, all 403rd Pilots, as well as **NEIL FAIRBANKS** from the 403rd, and a host of others. He is hoping that 1997 will be a better year for him and he will make Albuquerque. **WALTER** sends his regards to all of his friends in the 43rd Bomb Association.

DAVE HASSEMER, Headquarters Pilot from San Antonio, TX, thought that he should do something about his dues situation. He says that he misses the reunions but travel is not his thing anymore.

Along with a check for a couple of years dues, **ARTHUR H. GARD**, 64th bombardier from Marion, IN, sends his best wishes to everyone and is hoping to receive the 43rd history by the end of this year [1996].

ANNE LEE-WARNER, associate member from Double Bay NSW, Australia, sent a letter along with her annual dues to say she is sorry to have missed the reunion at Kissimmee but hopes to be at the reunion in Albuquerque. **ANN** says that she visited the 43rd's memorial in Mareeba during the past year. She thinks that **FRED COOK** helped to get this memorial placed in Mareeba and had visited it for the Group. **ANN** says they are going into their spring/summer season while we are entering our fall. Although they have had a good amount of rain at their ranch, cattle prices are "rock bottom" so there is no place for them to go but up. She wishes all a Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas.

PAUL HUGH JONES, 63rd Crew Chief from Norfolk, VA, says that ordinarily he and **DOROTHY** take care of the annual dues at the registration desk at the reunions, but they did not make this last one as they were on a cruise celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. They missed seeing everyone at the reunion, but from what they read in the Newsletter they see it was a great one. **HUGH** says he was saddened by the report of the death of **NED LEARY**, 63rd Ordinance. **NED** and **HUGH** worked together for the many months the Group was in Australia and New Guinea. **PAUL** and **DOROTHY** send their regards to **JIM MURPHY**, the **WATSONS**, **SAM COMMONS**, **JIM DIEFFENDERFER**, **PAUL LEDGER** and others. They look forward to '97 and the next reunion.

Flight engineer **LEO H. THALER**, 403rd Squadron, Hollis, NY, sends his congratulations to **BILL WILSON**, for accepting the position of Treasurer. **LEO** recently had quadruple by-pass surgery and could not make the last reunion. He was still recovering when he sent in his dues with a letter in November. He wants to extend his regards to all of his buddies in the 403rd.

JOUBERT S. McCREA, 65th Pilot from Alexandria, VA, says that he has lost track of the dues he owes. [You are now paid through '97, **JOUBERT**. Weren't you at Clark Field and perhaps Ie Shima at the same time I was?]

From Dearborn Heights, MI, **NORBERT MICHALOWICZ**, 65th Flight Engineer, says that although he is sending the treasurer dues for a couple of years, he is going to sign up as a life member when he gets to Albuquerque.

HAROLD NEWTON, 63rd Pilot from Easley, SC, sent Bill a very nice check to pay for

his dues, those of **EDWARD ST. ONGE**, 63rd Pilot from West Melbourne, FL, plus a tidy amount as a "small gift of goodwill to help defray expenses of the association." **HELEN ST. ONGE** had informed **HAROLD** that **ED** had suffered a stroke and was recovering.

JIM WARREN, 65th Flight Engineer of Princeton, NJ, sends his "Congratulations" to Col. **JIM PETTUS**, Group C.O., for getting the signed statement from **LARRY HICKEY** which guarantees a publication of the history in December '96. He says that he appreciates all of the "sweat and time you guys have put into the project to make it come about! Without all of your efforts, we would have no record to leave our families of a time in history that has gone the way of the dinosaurs." **JIM** sent along his dues as well as those of **JOE HENSLER**, 65th Pilot from Lawrenceville, NJ.

ALBERT CELLEMME, 64th Supply from Narragansett, RI, and his wife, **EMERICA**, sent in dues plus a donation to the association.

Collector of Antique and Classic Automobiles, **GREG "BUD" JOHNSON**, a 65th Pilot from Austin, MN, also sent along dues.

HOWARD BOOTH, 63rd Pilot hailing from Orinda, CA, sent **BILL** a check for his dues. He says he is sorry to have missed the last two reunions, but he and **M. J.** will be in Albuquerque. He also reports on brother-in-law, **EDWARD ST. ONGE**, 63rd Bombardier. **EDWARD** is coming along nicely at home in Melbourne, FL. **ED** would like to hear from some of his 'old buddies.'

64th Pilot **JOHN H. "PICK" PICKERING** from Norfolk, VA, enclosed his dues with a nice Christmas card. **JOHN** says he missed the last couple of reunions due to conflicts of dates, but he hopes to make the "'97 reunion."

JAMES A. JURNEY, 63rd from Bellevue, WA, enclosed a letter with his dues. He had missed keeping up with the annual dues as his wife had been so ill, and he was caring for her and lost track of the time. It is sad to report that **JIM**'s wife, **JOSEPHINE**, passed away early in 1996.

403rd Flight Engineer **HAROLD "YEO" YEOMANS** from Floyd, VA, spent part of the year in Virginia and the rest of the year in Sarasota, FL. He says that going back and forth he tends to get a bit confused at times and is sorry he is late with his '96 dues. He sent in his dues for a couple of years so that he will get back in the good graces of the association. He is sorry to not have made any reunions yet, but hopes to make one this year or next. [You can't keep putting this off or it will be too late. Why not make this year's reunion a must?]

MAX AXELSEN, 403RD Pilot from San Antonio, TX, has sent a clipping from *The Retired Officer Magazine*, December 1996, with an article about associate member, **JANICE OLSON**. The Mojave Desert (CA) Chapter awarded **JANICE** an honorary membership in July, 1996. She is cited as a World War II history buff who located three B-17 "Flying Fortresses" lost during the war. The article goes on to say that she became convinced in 1993, after studying documents in military archives and museums, and after talking with former B-17 crew members and aviation historians, that she could locate some B-17s that had been declared "lost" in New Zealand and New Guinea. It goes on to say, as most of us know very well, that **JANICE** located three "lost" planes and plans to continue to search for others. **MAX** also reports that his section of Texas has had some rain lately (Dec.), but the area is still 13" short for this time of the year.

Associate member **PETE J. ROBERTS** from Yanchep, Western Australia, noticed that he had fallen behind with his dues. So he sent in his dues to bring him up to date and then some. **PETE** appreciates the faith the association has shown in continuing to send along the Newsletter regardless. He says that "Old Age Disease" has finally caught up with him though. He thinks that it must be sad for association members to see others "...weaken and fall off the Perch." He recalls corresponding with the late **FRED BLAIR** when **FRED** was near Sydney. **FRED** loaned him a number of books and was instrumental in getting him to enroll in the 43rd Association through "**BREZZIE** - What's his name?" [**LLOYD "BREZZY" BOREN**] **PETE** says that he will keep thinking positively and is looking forward to the unit History when "**Mr. HICKEY** delivers it! eh?" "All good things come to those who wait" as **PETE**'s grandma would say. He sends his "Best Wishes" to the entire association and is looking forward, with a clear conscience this time, to the next Newsletter.

It is always sad to hear of the passing of another comrade, and our prayers and sympathies go to the spouse and family. It is equally sad when a spouse no longer cares to receive the Newsletter. **EVELYN M. DOEHREL**, widow of the late **FRED DOEHREL** from the 64th, asks that we no longer send her the Newsletter. **FRED** died in August

of 1993. Also **ELAINE M. PENCE** writes that **JAMES M. PENCE**, 64th Navigator from Philadelphia, PA, passed away on June 15th. She too has asked that we no longer send her the Newsletter.

A long newsy letter arrived from **ELWYN H. HANSEN**, 403rd Crew Chief/flight chief from North Platte, NE, along with a check for dues. **ELWYN** says that he is sure he and I never met. He, along with many of you, sailed on the "Argentina" troop ship to Melbourne, Australia, with the 13th reconnaissance squadron which later become the 403rd. The *Argentina* sailed from New York on Jan. 21st, 1942, and went to Australia via the Panama Canal along with a convoy of destroyers, cruisers and supply ships. They landed in March 1942. He spent 8 - 9 months at the Laverton Air Drome, near Melbourne, and then moved up to a little "fly infected" area called Torrence Creek. After some months he moved farther north to "Iron Range" where the outfit got its first planes - B-17s. The squadron soon moved to Milne Bay, New Guinea. A Japanese air raid one Sunday destroyed a good number of the B-17s in their revetments so the squadron was moved back to Iron Range. There they received new B-24s and soon moved to Port Moresby, New Guinea. The outfit moved northward on New Guinea and was stationed at about half a dozen different bases including Hollandia. The next move was to Awi [Editor is not sure of spelling and can't find this in an atlas.] Island and then on to Tacloban Air Base on Leyte, P. I. After a couple of months at Tacloban, **ELWYN** came home to the states. Before arriving in the Philippines, he was a crew chief, but then he became a "Flight Chief." It was 38 months to the day from the time **ELWYN** left New York and set foot again on U.S. soil. Five months later he was discharged from the service. **ELWYN** says that several years ago he and his family passed through the section of Western New York, where I live, with a "Pop Up" camper they were using at the time. He remembers the very high winds and rain the night they camped out in this area.

HERB ANDRESS, 403rd Personnel from West Chester, PA, reports that he is sorry has not been able to make the last couple of reunions. He notes from the lists of those attending the last reunion that the 403rd seems to be falling behind the other squadrons. He hopes to make it to Albuquerque and help rectify that. **HERB** joined the 403rd in Townsville after being transferred from the 435th Bomb Sqd., 19th Bomb Group.

VIRGINIA and **JESS. S. GIBSON**, 63rd Mess Duties, express regrets for not making the Kissimmee reunion. They had been in the process of closing their home, but they hope to make the 1997 reunion. They say, "Good luck and good health to all." Their new address is: 14326 W. Yukon Dr., Sun City West, AZ, 85375-5552.

Another change of address comes from **RUTH** and **ALBERT WEBBER**, 63rd Engineer. The new address is: 75 Silk Road, Fulton, NY 13069. They hope to make it to New Mexico next year and are sorry about missing this year's reunion.

ABE (SHORTY) HELLMAN, 403rd Navigator, asks us to change his address to: 465 Ocean Drive Apt. 622, Miami Beach, FL 33139.

URBANC. NYE, 64th Gunner from Oviedo, FL, says that the Newsletter is great and easy on the eyes and asks that we keep up the good work. His purpose of writing is to inform us all of his new address: 291 Woodgreen Ln., Winter Springs, FL 32708-3023.

WILTON E. THOMAS, 65th Navigator, reports a change of address. **WILTON** and **CATHERINE** now reside at 125 Dan Moody Trail, Georgetown, TX 78628. The phone is 1-512-931-0987.

JOHN LANDT, 63rd, and **MARJORIE** have a new address: 3323 Lotzgesell, Sequim, WA 98382.

Along with his dues **BOB VALLANCE**, 65th Navigator, announced that he has moved from California to Oregon. His new address is: 1200 Mira Mar #527, Medford, OR 97504. His new phone: 1-541-857-6043.

DEL and **HAROLD G. THOMPSON**, 403rd, now reside at 1704 Mountain Ridge Court, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. The phone is 1-505-293-2008. During the months of November through February they will be at their Florida residence: 6100 A1A South - Unit 513, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Ph: 1-904-471-5276. **HAROLD** says that with a reunion scheduled for Albuquerque, he bets he will finally attend one.

WANDA VESSELS, widow of the late **FRED VESSELS**, reports a new address: 16206 A. E. Alaska Pl., Aurora, CO 80017. Ph: 1-303-696-5742.

RAY SNYDER, 403rd Armament/Gunner from Crawfordville, FL, sent in a report via e-mail. He is sorry to have missed the reunion at Kissimmee, but he had to report on

sick call at the local hospital. He says that he left a message for JIM at the hotel desk, but does not know if JIM received it or not. It was especially disappointing as this would have been his first reunion. It has been a good many years since Nadzab (Markham Valley). It was here that he left the 43rd and was sent to the 90th where he finished up his missions. RAY sends his best to everyone.

Well BOB WHITE, 65th Tail Gunner from W. Peabody, MA, says that BILL had put him in the 403rd in the July Newsletter and his Pilot, VERN GASTON, San Marcos, CA, in the 65th. [I tried to correct this error in the next Newsletter only to goof as well. I put BOB in the 64th. You would still need a mighty long B-24 to accomplish that.] To set the record straight, BOB and VERN were both on the same crew in the same squadron - the 65th. [I am not going to count my errors BOB. I have retired from higher mathematics.] BOB says to tell HENRY LEWIS, 65th Pilot from Houston, TX, that he was on one of those crews you wrote about in the last Newsletter. His crew flew a brand new B-24D from Pocatello, ID, to Port Moresby, and we "started our missions from 7 mile." He is happy to hear that the 43rd history will be out in mid-December. BOB asks that if anyone in the association has a 1000 series Tandy computer and can program in BASIC, he'd be happy to hear from any such person. [BOB, I program in BASIC, but Radio Shack BASIC is a mutation all its own. That is one reason it never became popular. It is not really a true form of BASIC.]

DOTTIE and RUSS EDWARDS, 403rd Flight Engineer from Massillon, OH, had all of the children come home last October for the 20th class reunion of son BRUCE. All had a great time together. They were off to Minnesota to visit family over Christmas.

JANE and RUSS BURNETT, 64th Flight Engineer from Conway, MA, entertained JANE's cousin and husband from Atlanta, GA, during the height of the fall foliage with a drive through the Berkshire Mountains.

DICK RUSSELL, 65th Radio/Gunner from Great Falls, VA, has ordered a number of caps from both the Kissimmee and the Cheyenne reunions. He wants to have a surprise for some of his crew and his favorite flight surgeon. No names will be given away here.

KATIE THORNHILL writing for EDGAR, Headquarters from Los Angeles, CA, says he was very disappointed to see his name had been omitted from the roster of the 403rd in the last Newsletter. They checked his dues and found that he was up to date, but they sent in next year's dues at once. EDGAR is one of the men who joined the 43rd in Bangor, Maine. [The only names on the rosters in that Newsletter were of those who attended the reunion in Kissimmee. You are still listed in the official 43rd Roster.]

CHARLES F. EDWARDS, 403rd Communications from Haxtun, CO, writes that he reads and enjoys every issue of the Newsletter, but he has not attended any group reunions. He has attended annual reunions of the 403rd Bomb Sqd. in Aurora, NE. CHARLES says he was with the 13th Reconnaissance Sqd. from January to April 1942, and then with the 403rd from April to September of 1942.

JOHN ROCHE reports that he is doing better now after missing a couple reunions due to being on sick call. He and GENEVIEVE are hoping to make it to Albuquerque this year.

SAM COMMONS, Vice President sent along a joke for all you fellow golfers:

A priest, a doctor and an engineer were waiting one morning at the third tee (par 3, 185 yards, slight dogleg to the left, water hazard on the right) while a particularly slow group of golfers was flailing away ahead of them.

Engineer: What's with these guys? We must have been waiting for 13 minutes.

Doctor: I don't know, but I've never seen such ineptitude.

Priest: Hey, here comes the greens keeper. Let's have a word with him. Hi George. Say what's with that group ahead of us? Aren't they rather slow?

George: Oh, yes. That's a group of blind firefighters. They lost their sight while saving our clubhouse last year, so we let them play here for free, anytime they want.

Doctor: Thanks! That's good to know.

Priest: That's so bad. I believe I'll say a special prayer for them tonight.

Doctor: Good idea. I think I'll talk to my ophthalmologist buddy and see if there is anything he could do for them.

After a short pause ...

Engineer: Why can't these guys play at night?

SAM has also sent me material about a scam which seems to be spreading rather rapidly and could cost a person \$100 dollars or more rather easily. It is being used on the Internet as well as via the telephone. Just be aware that if you get any request by e-mail, telephone or answering machine or pager to call an "809" number, you should

ignore the request no matter what emergency message you may receive with the request. This is a Virgin Islands number and it is a collect call which for even a short call will cost about \$100.

For those of you who ordered the picture album for the 43rd, JIM DIEFFENDERFER says not to expect it before March at the soonest. The preliminary work for the album will be completed on January 15th.

PAUL LEDGER, 63rd Master Sergeant from Fort Wayne, IN, has located the following seven former 43rd personnel in his never ending search for "lost" 43rd personnel:

CHESTER B. DANOWS, 64th
219 Claremont Dr.
Flat Rock, NC 28731-8508
Ph: 1-704-692-0047

GRANT W. REICHART, 63rd
2543 S. Union Ave.
Alliance, OH 44601-5086
Ph: 1-330-821-4725

EDWARD J. FRADSHAM, 65th
11 S. Bedford St.
Burlington, MA 01803-4512
Ph: 1-617-273-1637

WARREN W. HOLLINGSWORTH, 63rd
P.O. Box 253
Ocean Springs, MS 39566-0253
Ph: 1-601-875-7173

HAROLD L. MANCHESTER, 65th
110 Touisset Rd.
Warren, RI 02885-1424
Ph: 1-401-245-2489

ANTHONY MAYER, 403rd
1943 Northwest 50th Circle
Ocala, FL 32670

CLYDE C. TABER, 63rd
143 Beechnut Ave.
South Mills, NC 27976
Ph: 1-919-771-5680

FRANK McCOWAN, 64th
5520 E. Lake Rd.
Sheffield Lake, OH 44054
Ph: 1-216-949-5601

RUDOLPH J. RYPYSC, 63rd
39 Hendrick St.
Chicopee, MA 01020-2511
Ph: 1-413-592-0774

That is excellent work PAUL. Now those of you who know any of these men should drop them a line or call them to renew acquaintances. Any of you might write them a few words and encourage them to join our association if they have not already done so. I have forwarded this list to our treasurer who has a form for them to fill out in order to join the 43rd Association. At least one had joined before this went to press.

PAUL LEDGER also conveyed the sad news that by the time he located the following ten men, they had gone to their great reward:

EDWARD C. AYLING 63rd KIA 1945 2nd Tour
ANTHONY BEMBOOM 64th 2/20/85
FLETCHER BRINGHURST 63rd 5/85
WILLARD S. COBB 63rd 3/22/94
MICHAEL EISENKERCH 63rd 4/84
MANLEY GOSS 63rd 10/68
EDWARD L. HUBER 63rd 9/1/95
JACK S. LAWSON 63rd 1980 ?
ERNEST LEICHTMAN 63rd 1966
ALBERT K. LENNAN 64th 1/86
LEO W. LONSINGER 63rd 1994
JAMES F. MADIGAN 63rd 10/01/94
DENNIS K. MAINE 63rd 9/22/90
LESLIE McCULLA 63rd 11/80
CHARLES L. PEARCE 64th 11/15/94
JOHN STEIDINGER 63rd 4/83
WALTER TADYS 63rd 12/82
RAYMOND WERNICKI 63rd 12/92

MAX OSBORN, our immediate Past President and 63rd Pilot, has sent in a change of address. He and FRAN now reside at: 25251 Truro Dr., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248. Ph: 1-602-802-4532. MAX writes that FRAN had a lung problem followed by an operation. They had to move to a lower altitude residence than the 6,130' Cheyenne location. They now have a home in a retirement style complex. MAX says his legs feel better. They play golf, swim and are trying to get organized. In the move a goodly number of items seem to have been misplaced or thrown away including the last Newsletter. They really enjoyed the Florida reunion and had a wonderful time there. They were able to see more of Florida than just at the reunion and also drove to Georgia to see FRAN's brother. "JIMMY the DEEF" [DIEFFENDERFER 63rd Pilot from Orlando] put on a great reunion, and "MAX the AX" [AXELSEN 403rd Pilot from San Antonio] pre-

pared a wonderful golf tournament. Even **GEORGE WHITE** [63rd Ball Gunner from Chatham, NJ] made his mark on the course." They missed **GENNY** and **ART DUR-BECK**, 403rd pilot from Bradenton, FL, and hope **GENNY** is coming along fine. **MAX** expressed his regrets at not being able to get to the Univ. of Wyoming Law School before moving from WY as **JIMMURPHY** has a granddaughter, **LESLIE SCALLEY**, attending there. **MAX** invites anyone passing his way to a game of golf, coffee, swimming or anything else. He is looking forward to Albuquerque and seeing Gen. **GIL SENA**, known as "Pancho," with whom **MAX** has an excellent correspondence. He sends his regards to all "brethren and their higher ranking roommates."

RICHARD WERTZ, 63rd Gunner from Holidaysburg, PA, has the unpleasant duty or reporting on the passing of another of our "KEN'S MEN" buddies. **RICHARD** informs us that **LEONARD E. BURNS**, a 'Line Chief' of the 63rd while in New Guinea, passed away on Sunday, December 1, 1996 in his home town of Altoona, PA. **RICHARD** writes that **ESTHER BURNS**, **LEONARD**'s widow, remarked that **LEONARD** and she never attended any reunion. **RICHARD** thinks that a good many others from the 63rd have never attended a reunion, and he's sure they would have enjoyed them. He wants any 43rd Bomb Group gang who has never attended a reunion to "get with it." Time is short for most of we "OLD GEEZERS."

About the time this Newsletter was ready to go to press a stack of mail arrived from "**BREZZY**" **BOREN**. **BREZZY** receives newsletters and other material from other associations similar to ours along with other materials from various persons or organizations.

A "NEWSLETTER" for the months of August, October and December 1996 of the No.24 SQUADRON ASSOCIATION, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA, will be producing their newsletter 4 times a year instead of 6 due to a lack of news from the members whose numbers are declining. They held their 5th Mid-Year reunion on October 16, 1996. The B-24 Liberator Squadrons held their annual Xmas reunion luncheon December 13, 1996. Secretary of the association, **TOM FITZGERALD**, reports that in November 1995, the B-24 Liberator Memorial Fund laid claim to a wingless B-24 being put up for sale as scrap. It is their hope to rebuild a Liberator to a taxiable state as a memorial to the Australian men who had operated that bomber during the war. They have been searching world wide for parts. They located a wing and tail section from a B-24D Liberator 42-41091, 403rd Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group. These parts had been recovered by the Australian Army in 1992 and brought to Australia. That plane had been heavily damaged on 23 December 1993 while supporting Allied landing on Cape Gloucester and was found lying in the Ramu Valley, Papua New Guinea. It is their hope to finish the external restoration will be complete by the end of 1999 and the interior two years later. When completed, the bomber will be donated to one of Australia's aviation museums.

***** REUNION NOTICES *****

The 19th BOMBARDMENT ASSOCIATION which held its annual reunion in Ft. Worth, TX, in 1996 plans its 1997 reunion in Chattanooga, TN, and its 1998 reunion in Tucson, AZ. Times and places had not been determined when their Oct.-Nov. newsletter was released.

THE 90th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION will hold its 1997 National Reunion from September 11 - 14 at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel, 2700 Mission College, Blv., Santa Clara, CA 95052-8181, phone 408-988-1500. Hosts are M. O. Freeman and Joan Freeman. Phone 408-270-7598.

FOR SEQUOIA FIELD, VISALIA & RANKIN FIELD, TULARE, CALIFORNIA . May 30th through June 1, 1997 at the Visalia Convention Center, Sequoia & Rankin Fields, and Mooney Grove Park, the site of the Tulare County Museum. All cadets, flight instructors, and support personnel involved in the USAAF WWII Pilot Training Programs at these fields are invited. Contact: Tulare Alums; Bill Borrego, 17182 Barcelona Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92647, (714) 842-2042. Visalia Alums; Bruce Baird, 9322 Melba Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92841, (714) 539-9747.

The SANTA ANA ARMY AIR BASE WING 22nd annual reunion and luncheon, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, CA. SATURDAY APRIL 26, 1997 for S.A.A.B. personnel, former cadets, friends and guests. Contact: S.A.A.B. WING, P.O. Box 1764, Costa Mesa, CA 92628. Phone (714) 631-5918; 24 hour Ans. Mach. Please leave name, telephone number and address or call Thursdays, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

43rd HISTORY UPDATE. On December 27, 1996, **LARRY HICKEY** dictated to me the following statement after some prodding by **JIM PETTUS** and the editor: **LARRY HICKEY** attempting to get our 43rd history and two other books printed by mid-December did

not make that deadline. Only one was printed despite a nonstop effort. He is still several weeks away from sending it to the printer. Everyone who has ordered a book will be receiving a publication announcement and an invitation to the publishing party. He is getting close. Just hang on a little longer.

BOB WATSON, 1997 Reunion Coordinator, has been in contact with the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel on numerous occasions over the past month or so, but despite their promises neither he nor I have received the form for placing reservations to the 17th Annual Reunion. Hopefully it will be faxed to **BILL** who will insert it in the Newsletter before publication. If it is not included, use the information given below to contact the hotel for information and reservations. Be certain to mention the **43rd Bomb Group Association**.

The Newsletter is published 4 times each year - January, April, July and October. If you have any news which you want in the Newsletter, please have it in the secretary's hands no later than the 15th of the month before publication. Dues (**\$15 per year**) may be sent directly to **BILL WILSON**, Treasurer, or to **JIM CHERKAUER**, Secretary. Make the check out to **43rd Bomb Group Assoc.** Check the mailing label on the January edition to find out your status with respect to paid up dues. Recent payments won't be recorded by the time the next Newsletter goes to press. The Association fiscal year is the same as the calendar year.

1997 Reunion UP-DATE

43rd Bomb Group Association 17th Annual Reunion
Albuquerque, New Mexico
September 7-14, 1997
Phone: 1-800-274-6835

The 1997 Reunion will be held at the Albuquerque Hilton Hotel on University Boulevard, at the intersection of I-40 and I-25 in the Northeast Corner. In order to get to the Hotel, simply Exit I-25 at the University Boulevard Exit and go approximately 3 blocks. If you arrive by Air, take the Airport Express Van from the Airport to the Hotel. There is a Fee for the service, but the more people in the van, the less the cost per person.

This Hilton is a beautiful mid-size hotel decorated in Southwestern Style. Everything is centrally located on the Ground Floor with excellent Meeting Rooms for all of our Activities. There is ample Free Parking around the hotel, and RV parking (NO hook-ups) is permitted at the rear of the Parking Area.

The Room Rate is \$75.00/night, single or double, excluding tax. To make your Reservations call 1-800-274-6835, or mail in the hotel reservation form included in this Newsletter. Be sure to tell them you will be attending the 43rd Reunion. also, send in the enclosed Reunion Registration form so we will know how many people to plan for. This year the Reunion Fee is \$95.00/person. **PLEASE**, before it slips your mind, fill out the form and send it along with you Reunion Fee to **JACK CAPERTON** in Albuquerque as indicated on the form.

We have what we believe is an excellent and entertaining schedule of events that will include entertainment, meals, a tour of Kirtland AFB, Philips Lab and Atomic Weapons Museum, plus Golf, Tennis, and Bridge. Scheduled Reunion activities begin on Thursday; so, plan to come early and see some of the points of interest in Albuquerque such as the Tram to Sandia Peak, the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, and much more. There will be daily transportation to enchanting Old Town for you to enjoy the many interesting shops, restaurants, and museums there. The New Mexico State Fair is also being held in Albuquerque the same week as our Reunion.

The weather at this time of year should be beautiful warm days with lots of sunshine and pleasantly cool starlit nights. So, **DON'T** delay, make your plans **now** to be with us in Beautiful, Enchanting Albuquerque, New Mexico!

BOB WATSON
Reunion Coordinator

JACK CAPERTON
Reunion Chairman

Late breaking news from the used car salesman--

Mrs. Dale Barr wants to continue to be a part of the 43rd. I have told **Gen** we wouldn't have it any other way. As much as Dale and Gen have done for the 43rd Bomb Group- it's real nice to still have Gen-- Drop her a note and let her know you want her-- she might even come to the New Mexico Reunion.

A note from **Douglas P. Walker**--son of **General Kenneth N. Walker** that was shot over Rabaul, January 1943, in a 43rd B-17 with a 43rd crew. **Martha Byrd**, a famous historian, has written a biography entitled, "**Kenneth N. Walker- Airpower's Untempered Crusader**." This book will be a publication by Air University Press, Maxwell AFB. Douglas will let us know when it will be available and ready to order. Several of us have sent Martha information on what we recall so watch for information in the news letter.

Had a note from **Jose Holguin's** son and he and the waist gunner's son are coming to the New Mexico reunion --I think. 59 Air Force men were shot down over Rabaul and captured- 13 survived, four from the 43rd and **Jose and Joel Griffen**, but most were executed. All totaled, according to the Japs, 126 allied flyers were captured. RNZAF 5 -2 survived, RAAF 35 - 4 were transferred to Japan -fate unknown, 15 U.S. Navy, 4 survived- 15 USMC- 2 survived. I still have a personal dislike for the Japs-- one for sure a Pilot Officer 1st Class Shigetoshi Kudo. On the night of June 26, 1943, he shot down **Charles Trimmingham's** crew 65th. Jose Holguin was the only survivor. P.O. Kudo had installed two 20 mm cannons pointing up at 30 degrees. He made his attack at 6 o'clock low and blasted away. After working Trimmingham over, he took our crew over. The tail gunner reported he would blast us then drop down. We started twisting and turning and with great luck (skill?) we got away. The ground crew talked ugly to me for getting their plane scratched up-- Kudo was awarded a ceremonial sword for his night's work. **Mc Eachran, Col. Pettus** and I were in the RCAF together.

Bill Schirmer, 65th maintenance from Walla Walla, Wash. sent in his dues and I checked his address label. Remember my Oper. Officer was from Walla Walla? I had lost contact with him- Bill ran him down for me and we had a nice phone visit after 50 years. Thanks, Bill.

Elmer E. Hanson, 63rd pilot, reports he tried my town of Snyder in the 50's. The dirt and dust ran him off. He went back in the Army at Homestead, Lincoln, NE. -- froze out and landed in Austin, Texas and bought a farm at Thorndale near Austin. No plans to move any time soon-- they say we live in a mobile society....

Harold A. Buelow- 65th Nav. in 1945- B-24 boy, found out about us from some of his crew members. Pilot **Robert Claycombe**, Co-Pilot **William Miles**, Harold was the Navigator, Bomb Aimer **Seymour Drescher**, Crew Chief **Bethel F. Ray**, Radio **Robert Ganahl**, Bottom Ball **Robert Zieniewicz**, Side-Gunner **Louis Pathman**, Nose-Gunner **Frank Dolezal, Jr.**, and TailGunner **Leonard Todd**. Harold's address P.O. Box 25, Culleoka, TN 38451-0025.

A note from **Bob & Doris Butler**, 63rd and founder of this great group- **Chunky and Clara Marie Wilfert**, 63rd, received a letter from **Virgie Hale**, wife of **Jimmie W. Hale**, 63rd pilot. Jimmie passed away September 22, 1996. Vergie has started a scholarship memorial fund in Jimmie's name. It will be handled by their church- Midwest Blvd. Christian Church - 320 N Midwest Blvd., Midwest City, OK 73110. If you would like to make a memorial gift, just send it to the church in Jimmy's name. Also, Virge would love to hear from any of Jimmie's running mates. They had 51 great years. Her address is 3728 Rolling Lane Circle, Midwest City, OK 73110

P.S. Bob and Doris are fine!

LeRoy & Patricia Jones, 63rd, point out I have made a mistake- here it is 7:00 A.M. and I never screw up before 7:30-- A new record for me-- well life goes on- your label on this new letter is correct. Sorry about that, Thanks.

A note from one of my girlfriends, this one is from Australia, I think I have some more down under. **Anne Lee Warner** has made several of our reunions- says President Clinton went over real well on his visit there-- and he went over real well at the polls here---- she says to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season -- hope to see her in New Mexico in September. She is one of my good girls.

Paul & Helen Barbus, 64th, sent me a picture of Mary Lois & I by the pool in Kissimmee. First picture of me without my mouth open, eyes shut and some kind of dumb look. Mary Lois always takes a good picture- it was good of both of us- Thanks, Paul.

Col. Carroll W. Guy, 65th pilot, just turned 80 and sent in dues and a little extra. Carroll was Dr. Gusack's tent-mate. He also has a new address- 424 Moser Lane, Murray, KY 42071.

Frank L. Sander, 63rd navigator, sent best wishes to all for a healthy and happy New Year. He also sent some extra money if anyone is short on Dues money-- Thanks, Frank.

Our new secretary, Jim and Anita Cherkauer are very good. These kids that drove B-24s are something else-- they did the whole newsletter! Let them know we think they are super.

Mary Lois joins me in wishing each of you good
health in the New Year--
God Bless

43rd Bomb Group Association Reunion

ALBUQUERQUE HILTON ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO
September 7 - 14, 1997

NAME: Last _____ First _____

SPOUSE/GUEST: _____ SQUADRON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ If any information has changed since Sept. '96,
please check _____.

REUNION FEE: \$95 per person X _____ = \$ _____ (No. of people) (Amount enclosed)
--

ARRIVING _____ AND DEPARTING _____

(date)

(date)

TRAVELING BY: Auto _____ Plane _____ Other _____

I WILL BE PLAYING: Golf _____ Tennis _____ Bridge _____

MY SPOUSE/GUEST WILL PLAY: Golf _____ Tennis _____ Bridge _____

NOTE:

Make check payable to:

43rd BOMB GROUP REUNION

Mail check with this form to:

Jack Caperton

7524 Prairie Rd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109

Do you require  assistance?

If yes, check at right _____

43RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 7-14, 1997

PLEASE DON'T FORGET!!
Make Check or Money Order
Payable To:
The Albuquerque Hilton

NAME _____ COMPANY/GROUP _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SHARING ROOM WITH _____

If sharing room-please make one reservation only. Multiple reservations for one room may result in a no-show billing. Please indicate if room will be shared by a 3rd adult (over age 18); if so an additional charge will prevail.

Please Type or Print

For your convenience, you may either mail in this reservation or call 1-800-274-6835 to make your reservation.

All reservations will be held until 6:00 p.m. on the day of arrival unless guaranteed by one nights advance deposit or one of the following major credit cards: American Express, Diner's Club, Carte Blanche, Mastercard, Visa, Discover, or EnRoute Special Requests are subject to availability at time of check-in.

If calling 1-800 number, please identify yourself as an attendee of conference.

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

I understand that I am liable for one night's charge and tax which will be deducted from my deposit or billed through my credit card in the event that I do not arrive on the date indicated or cancel 48 hours prior to arrival. A card number is required for verification of cancellation.

Signature _____

Please Circle Preferred Rate Below

Arrival Date _____

of Rooms Accommodations Requested

Departure Date _____

Number of Nights _____

_____	Single (1 person) 1 bed	\$75
_____	Double (2 persons) 1 bed	\$75
_____	Triple (3 persons) 2 beds	\$85
_____	Quad (4 persons) 2 persons, 2 beds	\$85
_____	Double Double (2 persons, 2 beds)	\$75
_____	Rollaways available at \$10.00 per night	

Check-in 3p.m.-- Check-out 12noon
August 17, 1997--Cut-off date All
reservations must be received by
above date in order to be eligible
group rate.

Albuquerque Hilton
1901 University NE
Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-884-2500

If rate requested is not available, nearest rate will be assigned. All rooms are subject to existin state and local taxes. Toll Free 1-800-274-6835 Fax (505)-889-9118