

449th Bomb Group Association

"FLYING HORSEMEN" (WW2)

Group
HQS
and



716th 717th 718th 719th

SQUADRONS

NEWSLETTER #3 - JULY 83

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST REUNION AND 40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Tucson, Arizona Nov. 4-6, 83

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (all at The Tucson Desert Inn, except for the Saturday Tours)

Thursday, November 3rd, 1983

- 1700-1900 "Earlybirds" Registration (Committee members and all early arrivals).
- 1900-2200 Refreshments, **buffet** and Reunion Committee meeting.

Friday, November 4th, 1983 (Reunion starts)

- 0900-1800 Registration, photo displays.
- 1300-1430 **Business meeting**, all members.
- 1430-1630 Photo "Briefing"-WW2 449th Photo projections.
- 1800-1900 Cocktail hour
- 1900-2400 "**Get Acquainted**" **Buffet**, table hopping, and hotel program entertainment.

Saturday, Nov. 5th, 1983 (Reunion photo album day)*

- 0830-1630 **Conducted Bus Tour**. Buses leave 0830 from Hotel for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, flight line tour, and Pima Air Museum....dismount buses and tour the aircraft displays. Returning to Hotel by 1630 hrs.
A proposed "ladies tour" (for those not wanting to make the tour of the Air Base and the Air Museum) will have announced times (to coincide with the bus tour).
- 1800-1900 Cocktail hour and assemble for;
- 1900-2400 **Reunion Banquet, program**, and entertainment.

Sunday, Nov. 6th, 1983

- 0900-1030 **Brunch**
- 1030-1130 **Memorial Service** (in banquet room).
- 1130-1200 Farewell visiting and clearing.
- 1200 Official end of Reunion. Have a Safe Journey to the 15th Air Force Reunion, Riverside, California, or in returning home!

*NOTE:

Photo Album Day. By special arrangements with "Reunions", Orlando, Fla. our reunion will be photographed and made into a memorable album. Each member has been mailed one of their notices...the photographer will be taking his pictures from noon, Sat. the 5th, until midnight...every person will have their picture taken for this album (probably several types and various places in the Air Museum and at the banquet.)

REUNION CHECK LIST...DATA...INFORMATION

- (1) **PLACE:** Tucson, Arizona. The Desert Inn, 1 North Freeway at Congress Exit.
The Desert Inn is the REUNION HQS and location of all events (except the Bus Tour which originates at the Inn).
A Color Brochure is enclosed.
- (2) **CHECK LIST FORMS:** Enclosed with this #3 Newsletter are the following forms:
(a) **Desert Inn Reservation Card** (mail to the Inn with your check).
(b) **449th Registration Sheet.** (mail to Downey with \$15.00 reg. fee).
(c) **Olan Mills Reunion Form.** (read and bring to reunion...if you are not coming to the Reunion you can still get your photo in the album). Read the form for particulars. This is your Reunion Album Form!
(d) **A Tucson Desert Inn Color Brochure.**
(e) A full schedule of events is included in the newsletter!
- (3) **REGISTRATION:** Each member must register for himself and those he brings, using the 449th Registration Form (this is for the Regis. Committee to prepare a holding envelope to contain: name badges, programs, schedule of events, the 449th Membership Roster.
- (4) **DESERT INN ROOM RESERVATION:** (NOTE: THE 449th ASSOC. IS NOT MAKING ROOM RESERVATIONS FOR YOU...YOU MUST DO THIS SEPARATELY!)
Using the Tucson Desert Inn Registration Card (enclosed), complete the information on the card and mail it to the Inn.
(Enclose one nights rent)
DESERT INN RATES: The amounts, with tax included, are \$24.08 single, \$28.36 dbl/tw. dbl.
(These are special Military Rates for our REUNION)
One nights lodging will hold your reservation, and is required when sending in your check.
ROOMS ARE ON FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.
- (5) **THE 449th REGISTRATION FORM:** This is to be completed by each member and mailed to the Coordinator: Richard Downey, 4859 Stanhope Dr., St. Louis, MO 63128, with one check for registration fee, \$15.00 (this is for one member, but will include his family and/or guests accompanying to the Reunion). Complete all items of information, but do not send check for the other events...you will pay for these and pick these up when you register at the Reunion "Control Tower." (the form lists the costs of each event, their times are in the Reunion Schedule...)
- (6) **AIRPORT-TO-DESERT INN TRANSPORTATION!...**Free limousine service...the Desert Inn provides free service...look for their orange-and-white vehicles, right outside the Terminal.
- (7) **CAMPERS/R.V. VEHICLES....** They may be parked on the Desert Inn parking lot, but without hook-up. For those desiring hook-up service contact the Tucson Tourist Bureau and Convention Center, P.O. Box 3028, Tucson 85702. (602)624-1817.
- (8) **FOR THOSE COMING TO THE REUNION BUT NOT STAYING AT THE DESERT INN....** Individual registration is still required for the Reunion....complete the 449th Registration form, send it to the Coordinator....and indicate your place of lodging, (with friends, etc.)
- (9) **OVERFLOW....REMEMBER,** The Tucson Desert Inn will take your room reservations on a FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED basis...but we do have a block of rooms set aside at the Travelodge, just across the road, for overflow...at the same prices. (but send your room reservations card in early...starting NOW.)
(Note: Roll-away beds can be added..\$4.00 ea...ask on Reg. Card to Desert Inn)
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A Book on the 449th?

This is a definite possibility. We have obtained the manuscript of the late Damon Turner. Damon was a 449th S-2 officer who wrote an original manuscript of over 350 pages.

We are now looking for more input into the book—pictures, additional information of a historical importance.

If you have anything which you believe might be of historial interest or some story that could enhance the history of the 449th, please contact our headquarters.

Additional information would be added as footnotes to Damon's book.

Don Lapham, Historian

449th Bomb Group (H)...aircraft names & info cont'd from #2 newsletter B-24 Liberators

New and/or additional information for previously listed B-24s of the 449th Bomb Group:

HOT TO GO...is #595 and was Hartons second plane. *YE OLDE RUGGED CURSE* is #28.

VALIANT VIRGIN, seen in a photo as *VALIANT VIRGIN IA* (may have been added later).

BUCKET OF BOLTS, #33 (blew up on take-off 8-15-44) add. serial nr. 128600. Another #28 ship, a 717th Sqdn., was *DOODLEBUG*, a B-24D

BIG NOISE FROM KENTUCKY, add #26, a 718th ship, serial nr. 252149. And that ship that was #16, with a big "A" on the tail, was a 719th ship and usually flown by MacArthur...and *BORN TO LOSE*, had a four leaf clover on her, with a second line in smaller print "and now I'm losing you" (from the song of the same name).

PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA, was Gil Bradleys ship, shot down on 2-25-44 on return from Regensburg with crew bailing out over Yugoslavia (Chetnik territory)..her nr was 498.

PRINCESS HELEN, flown mostly by Alexanders crew..went in on her 46th mission..no one saw her crash, and is believed to have ditched in the Adriatic or Mediterranean.

RAD-A-DAS..suffered burn damage when *FEARLESS FOSDICK* blew up in front of her. McGrath's crew brought her home with all plexiglass forward facing windows blacked-out, ailerons and tail surfaces burnt away. "Doc" Stovalls crew went down in *FICKLE FINGER* on their 43rd mission on June 9, 44.

ADDITIONAL B-24s (not listed previously):

HOLY JOE *GUARDIAN ANGEL* *SKIPPER* *DRAGON LADY*, #25

HONEY CHILE *THINGS IS ROUGH* *SUZANN JANE* *HOT ROCK*

TAIL WIND *STINKY THE B.T.O.* (big time operator) *BONNIES BOYS*

MISS DE FLAK *RAMP TRAMP*, #700 *PEERLESS CLIPPER* (Gents ship)

6 O'CLOCK JOE, #061 a B-24D *MIASIS DRAGON* *BIG BILL*, a B-24D, #264400

BRASS MONKEY, #51, ser. nr. 128486, a 717th ship *PUGNACIOUS PEGGY*

PATCHES *WORRYBIRD* *CORAL PRINCESS* *OLD IRONSIDES*

SHACK HAPPY, #41 *THE SHACK*, #29 *TARFU*, a B-24D, #12, ser. # 27165

SPIRIT OF ILLINOIS *LADY IN THE DARK*, a 719th *CONSOLIDATED MESS*, a 719th

ZODIACS, a 718th, came from 8th A.F. *RELUCTANT LIZ* *TWINKLETOES*

MY ACHIN' BACK *DRY RUN* *HIT PARADER* *OUR BABY TOO*

DUMBO, on Kendalls first mission Jan 14, 44, crash landed at Bari, Italy (15th AF Hq), returning with many troubles, one gear down, on return from Mostar, Yugo.

BOMB BOOGIE *LONESOME POLECAT* *MAUI MAID* (named for Alkire) *BRADYS GANG*

TWO TON TESSIE (from Nashville, Tenn.), one of the original 13 combat ships

SUPERSTITIOUS AL-O-Y-SIUS, #480, lost in mid-air collision over Steyr, Austria.

DIXIE BELLE, downed 4-4-44 on the Bucharest Pres., Unit Citation msn, Kendalls crew aboard; 2 KIA, 8 MIA/POW in Romanian POW Camp.

THE HEAVENLY BODY, Ed Drinans ship..stayed with Bradleys crew in *PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA*, and between the 2 crews knocked down 16 fighters, S-2 officer didn't believe Drinans debriefing report but when Bradleys crew returned from Yugoslavia, all confirmed.

LOS LOBOS, #395 (The Wolves). Polinks ship, flown over in original 13..Co-pilot Ringle painted the nose-art..it went in at Grottaglie on an early return with another crew on board..on aircrafts 9th mission. (crews name not known at this time, reported to have landed downwind with full load of bombs aboard).

DOODLE BUG, #28, a B-24D of the 717th; made several "booze" runs to Cairo, Egypt.

PISTOL PACKIN' MAMMA (a follow-on named craft, after the one lost 2-25-44 but using an additional letter "M" in the last name), this one was nr 597.

SHACK! WOLF!, #61, serial nr. 129194. *VENI, VIDI, VICI* (we came, we saw, we conquered).

NANCY JANE, a 719th, flown over by Harmons crew in Apr 44 and knocked down within a month, being flown as a lead ship, by another crew.

FEARLESS FOSDICK, a 716th..blew up on Brenner Pass msn, in front of *RAG-A-DAS*.

LONESOME, 42-7732, Geisels ship (the original "Lonesome").

and some additional odds and ends.... *UMBRIAGO* completed 94 msns. *KAYO* had 86 msns. *HEADING HOME* flew 96 msns. *CLASSY CHASSIS*, was #48 and was one of the original 13 combat ships from Bruning AAF, went down over the Ferrara R.R. Bridge on her 87th msn. #30 last 4 nrs. 0718....#505 was a B-24D....as was B-24D ser nr 276952....and ser nr 27677 had no name....#409 also had no name and was a "D" model....#408 also with no name and a "D" model....#4, (no name) 129307....#72 (no name) was ser nr. 295314. And "*SHIRLEY JEAN*," #68 flew a record 101 missions!

ALL "FLYING HORSEMEN"

OF THE 449th BOMB GROUP

Staff, flight crews, ground crews....



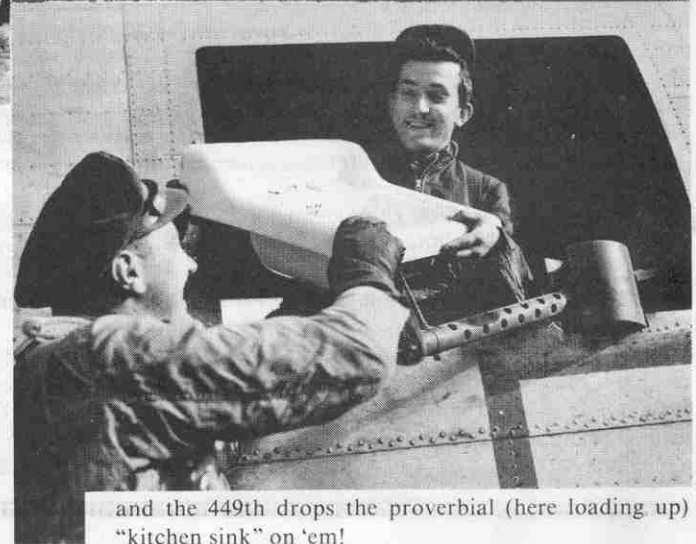
449th receives Pres. Unit Cit.
(front row, l to r):
Gen. Nathan Twining, 15th Cndr.
Lt. Col. Jack Randolph, 449th CO
Gen. Rush, 47th Wing CO



Flt. Engr. Dick Greco...Ketrings crew
719th BS

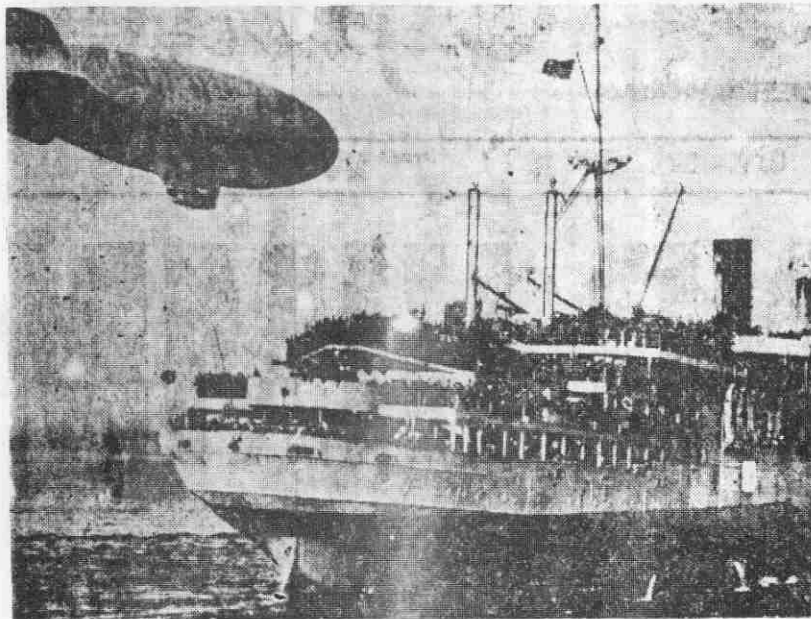


"Shirley Jean" coming off the Target..
D-day Southern France invasion..5
flak bursts around her..#68, ser #295397



and the 449th drops the proverbial (here loading up)
"kitchen sink" on 'em!

Ploesti Oil Field Raiders Return to America



[Associated Press Wirephoto]

Two Bomb Groups

Boston, Mass., May 25 (AP) More than 6,000 members of the veteran 15th air force, which crippled Germany's life line by blasting the Ploesti oil fields, disembarked today from a coast guard manned troop transport for rehabilitation leaves prior to transfer to the Pacific.

Included in the veterans of some of the fiercest air fighting in Europe was the 449th bomb group, known as the "Flying Horsemen," under command of Col. Jack L. Randolph of Porterville, Cal.

Also disembarked were members of the 450th bomb group, known thruout Italy as "the Cottontails."

Both the 449th and the 450th are a part of the 49th* wing, one of five heavy bombardment wings of the 15th air force. Col George H. Blass of St. Louis, Mo., who came back with the troops, is in temporary command of the wing.

*As published in the
CHICAGO TRIBUNE
MAY 26, 1945
(...should be 47th Wing)**

A welcoming American navy blimp floats over the stern of a ship bringing home some of the 6,000 members of the 15th air force, which blasted the Ploesti oil fields. The ship is entering Boston harbor, and the men will be granted rehabilitation leaves before their transfer to Pacific areas.



some more "Remember whens".....

....arriving at Grottaglie AB Dec 43...no tents...no chow hall...mud everywhere...lining up for tomato juice...sleeping in the bombed out hangars!...outdoor chow lines when the "chow" did start to arrive!...the first latrines...

waiting for the mail...and when it arrived we each had 6 and 7 apiece...a few didn't get any at all...

the first few missions, when we couldn't seem to get a break in the weather...and tried to hit targets through cloud layers...we've learned later that the Jan 45 weather socked in Europe so bad that crews were awakened, briefed, awaited the flares to go for 19 straight briefing days, before the "go" flares were shot...

the attempts to keep your uniforms clean...pressed, out of the question...and then a cleaning shop procedure was set up...what kind of chemicals did they use? We even tried to clean our own uniforms in avgas...and that smell still hasn't come out!

and those folding cots...some guys brought air mattresses from the States and you could count them on your hands...a few had been tipped off to grab a mattress cover at Camp Patrick Henry and when you get your cot & tent assigned, fill it with hay...this seemed to be the most popular...but still, hundreds just stacked G.I. blankets on top and on the bottom, and still survived! All other types of beds and bedding were the result of individual enterprise...or a good poker hand!

watching your first B-24 go down...and dragging your way back through the Alps because you were holding on to the most altitude you could, and bomb run damage has taken its toll and the old Liberator wants to set down...so you lighten her up, check your fuel transfer, retrim, double your prayers, and nurse her home!

and the days of celebration when a buddy, and another crew, gets their rotation orders for completion of their combat tour...and you say a few extra prayers for the many who didn't...hey, the Squadron has a barbershop...and you take your own razor, your own soap, and your after shave...and for 15 Lire you get a first class shave! But the haircut just doesn't seem the same? Oh well...it'll grow back!



"PISTOL PACKIN' MAMA" and "HEAVENLY BODY"

Between the two crews flying these ships, accounted for 16 Luftwaffe ftrs.

Gil Bradleys crew in PPM and Ed Drinans crew in HB. Both crews bombed Regensburg with PPM going down over friendly territory & recovered from Yugoslavia. Sgt. Paul S. Biggert (front row, at left) KIA on msn.



Two of the aircraft going down over Bucharest on the Presidential Unit Citation mission of 4-4-44!

"PAPER DOLL" was flown by Garrisons crew, 8 men KIA...

"DIXIE BELLE" flown by Kendalls crew, 3 men KIA...the others becoming POW's in Romanian POW Camps.
(both 719th Bomb Sqdn aircraft)



...and the
B-24 herself!





(NO OTHER INFO ON THESE TWO
449th BOMB GROUP SHIPS)



"STAR DUST"
Note the 718th Bomb
Sqdn insign. of the 449th
BG.

After flying many
missions, wounded she
became a "hangar
queen" and parked by
Group Hqs....but re-
flown in the last frag
msns of the War!



449th BOMBERS

"LOS LOBOS" (The Wolves)
Polinks crew flew her over in Dec
43. Old 395 wasn't named or
painted until arrival in Italy..Co-
Pilot Ringle did the nose art.

Another crew making an early
return on her 9th mission (Jan/ Feb
44) blew up on crash landing her
at Grottaglie AB...full bomb load.



NEWSLETTER #3... 9 June 83 the first flier went out in May 82, a second single sheet flier was mailed in Aug. 82...which prompted the beginnings of the Newsletters! Number 1 newsletter went out Oct. 12, 1982...followed by the 2nd one in April 83...by Oct. 82, the names collected had reached 86...and by April 83 the membership in the 449th Bomb Group Assoc. had passed 220...as of June 9th, 1983 and the formation of the #3 newsletter, we have 287 names of ex-449ers WW2, and now members of the 449th Bomb Group Association.

There must be another 300 WW2 ex-449ers out there somewhere! It is the wish of every member of your present Assoc. Cabinet that the word gets out to everyone of them...magazines have been contacted with Reunion Notices...but its letters and phone calls that are doing a great job. And many of the present members still didn't see the 449th Reunion Notices in magazines they have received...so we are going to really depend upon personal contacts (while continuing running notices)...write and call any of your former 449ers...ask them to send in their names and addresses, their unit assignments, to the Association Coordinator...he will run his name into the roster and put him on the mailing list...but have the man write in himself...this insures a correct address with a correct ZIP and an expression of interest!

Thanks for sending in your various donations...as a Non-Profit Organization it is the only way we can continue to stay "in the black"...and solidify the plans for this Reunion...DON'T MISS IT.....

449th
Bomb Group Assoc.
"Flying Horsemen"

The Liberators



*We're heading for
Tucson! That's where
the old Group is forming!*



449th Bomb Group (H) Assoc.
716-717-718-719th
Bomb Squadrons
15th Air Force (WW2)
Coordinator: 4859 Stanhope Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63128
Richard F. Downey

DATED MATERIAL

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U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 930

**FIRST REUNION
NOV. 4-5-6-, 83
TUCSON, AZ**

*List of Reunions
links to Downey
The mailing list is in
the*