

449th Bomb Group Association

"FLYING HORSEMEN" (WW2)



716



Group
HQS
and



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716th, 717th, 718th, 719th Bomb Squadrons and the 348th Service Squadron.

JUNE 85 NEWSLETTER

2ND REUNION INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (all at the Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio).

Thursday, October 24th, 1985.

- 1700 "Earlybirds"; REGISTRATION begins (all committees and early arrivals). **Registration continues until Sun. 0930.**
- 1900 "Earlybirds" Buffet. All members and their guests. Informal.

Friday, October 25th, 1985.

- 0915-1530 "Aviation Trail, Tour A". Air cond. buses. Famous sites of the beginnings of Aviation; Orville & Wilbur Wright shops and home, etc. Catered lunch stop incl in price, with entrees to exhibits prepaid.
- 1245-1645 "Aviation Trail, Tour B". Same as above, no lunch provided. Tour slightly shorter. Air cond. buses.
- 1600-1700 GENERAL BUSINESS meeting. Members only.
- 1700-1845 "Social-Cocktail Time". . . . hospitality area.
- 1900 "GET ACQUAINTED BUFFET". . . all members and their guests. Informal attire and program. . . "loosening up time"

Saturday, October 26th, 1985

- 0930 "AIR FORCE MUSEUM VISIT/TOUR". . . all members and their guests, no charge. Bus trans. from Marriott to Museum beginning at 0930 with shuttle returns from the Museum. (your reg. fee helps offset this expense). Nov. 26th is 449th Bomb Group Day at the A. F. Museum. . . special film to be shown. Last bus leaves the museum at 1530!
- 1700-1845 "Social-Cocktail Time". . . . hospitality area.
- 1900 "ANNIVERSARY/REUNION BANQUET; semi-formal attire (coats and ties for the men, ladies attire-long dress optional). A "sit-down" banquet; special program and music. Principal speaker; Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Texas; prior 449th pilot. The Wright AFB Concert Band will present a special concert.

Sunday, October 27th, 1985

- 0930-1030 449th BRUNCH (followed immed. by the Memorial Svc). The brunch will start promptly at 0930.
- 1030-1200 449th MEMORIAL SERVICE. Special program, informal attire.
- 1230 REUNION ENDS. Clear Hotel for departures. Those using the airport sign trans. schedule register in lobby for loading coordination.

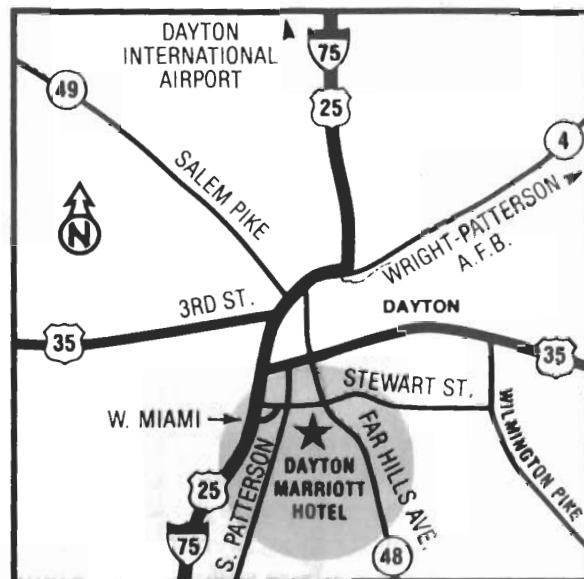
Note: We have made arrangements for a Color Photo Album of this Reunion! Bring your cameras, bring your wives for photos of couples, and we will have posed and candid photos taken throughout the Reunion!

GENERAL REUNION INFORMATION AND DATA:

- (1) This will be the 2nd Reunion of the 449th Bomb Group Association, WW2. The First Reunion was held in Tucson, Arizona, Nov. 1983. At the first general business meeting the membership approved the motions that; the Reunions be held every 2 years, that the location be resolved by the elected board, that both the Atlantic and Pacific Coast cities be excluded because of the extreme distances, and if possible to alternate East and West of the Mississippi River.
- (2) This 2nd Reunion and 42nd Anniversary is in Dayton, Ohio. Primary purpose of selection was to allow the membership to visit the main Air Force Museum. The hotel selection was made after a visit and comparable inspections of several facilities. Special rates for rooms, meals, cash bar, hotel transportation, banquet and meeting room facilities, parking facility, etc. all helped the committee to select the Marriott Hotel. It is located at 1414 South Patterson Blvd., Dayton, Ohio 45409. Phone (513) 223-1000. (see map included in newsltr.)
- (3) **FORMS LIST:** Included with this newsletter are; the 449th Advance Registration form and the Marriott Hotel Reservation Card Request. Complete each form and mail, with their required checks, to the specific assignee. The 449th Adv. Reg. sheet to R. Downey, Secy. 4859 Stanhope Dr., St. Louis, MO with the \$15.00 registration fee (this is to offset the reunion expenses. . . make check to 449th Bomb Group Assoc.). . . the Marriott Hotel Reserv. Request Card is a pre-printed Card with the 449th logo affixed; send your first nights rental along with this card! (use another envelope if you are using your personal check, made out to the Marriott Hotel. . . . if annotating the Card for one of the Charge Cards, send the Card by itself!
- (4) **MARRIOTT HOTEL RESERVATIONS:** Please note that the 449th is not making the room reservation for you... you must send in the Card yourself... and separately from the 449th Registration Sheet! The hotel rates are special rates for our Reunion. We have rooms "blocked off" (a number set aside for the 449th) and the "cut-off" is by the 10th of October, on a first come and first served basis. . . so be sure and get your registration and reservation requests in as soon as possible.
- (5) **The 449th ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM:** Enclosed. . . this is to be completed and returned to the Secy. with the registration fee. One fifteen dollar amt. per member, and his family. Each guest family is also required a \$15.00 reg. fee. This covers printed programs, postages, bus rentals for the Sat. A. F. Museum tour/visit, and name plates, plus incidentals. . . . envelopes, etc.
- (6) **AIRPORT-TO-MARRIOTT TRANS:** The Marriott Hotel has graciously agreed to utilize its van for trans. to and from the airport. . . the van is to be filled for each trip. Additional limo service is available at \$6.00 per person, one way (phone 898-717).
- (7) The Marriot has its own exterior parking lot, holds 500 cars, and has no fee. Off loading, on loading can be done at the main entrance.
- (8) **For those NOT STAYING at the Marriott!** Advance registration is still required; indicate upon your sheet that you are staying elsewhere (we need to keep totals for data).
- (9) **LATE ARRIVALS:** for those arriving late, not previously registered, space may not be available, and reunion rates may not apply. Also, space may not be available and other lodging may be required.
- (10) **CAMPERS/R. V. VEHICLES:** Those desiring hook-up and or service, contact the Dayton Convention Bureau 1-800-221-8234 in Ohio. For those outside Ohio, call 1-800-221-8235.
- (11) **REUNION PHOTO ALBUM:** We have contracted with a photographic company to do a **COLOR ALBUM.** Photos will be made of couples, crews, various group shots, all posed and some candid! More particulars later.



1414 S. Patterson Blvd.
Dayton, Ohio 45409
(513) 223-1000



For complete information call us direct at: (513) 223-1000 or call toll free: 800-228-9290 (in Alaska and Hawaii call toll free 800-228-2180). In Nebraska call 800-642-8008, in Canada call 800-268-8181 (except B.C.).

LOCATION: Located on the banks of the Great Miami River, near the downtown area, the Dayton Marriott is easily accessible by car. . . . just two minutes off Interstate 75. For guests arriving by commercial air carrier, it is just 20 minutes to the Hotel. Commercial limousine service is available to and from the airport. . . . for 449ers call the Hotel for their Van service "pick-up" (fill the van if possible).

LUXURIOUS GUEST ROOMS: The 449th is getting rooms at a \$36.00 discount occupancy, three person occupancy, or a four person occupancy! "You can't beat that with an eleven foot stick!" Each room has individual climate control, color TV, AM/FM Radio, in room movies (careful, these are additional charges), the latest safety and security features. Two floors of rooms have balconies. the first floor have patios.

AMENITIES: free parking for over 500 cars. . . . a well-stocked gift shop in the lobby. . . . ice and soda machines on every floor. Staff room service for early morning breakfast, cocktails, full-course dinner or late night snack.

SPECIAL AMENITIES TO THE 449th BOMB GROUP ASSOC: complimentary USA Today Newspapers for those on Thursday and Friday. Complimentary coffee service in the lobby all four days! Special drink prices at our Cash Bars (during our "Social-Cocktail" hours), \$1.75 bottled beer and \$2.00 for mixed drinks. Special Buffet and Banquet prices. Complimentary Van service to/from airport. Postage paid reservation cards. The main Hotel Cloak room for our Reservation Booth! and the large salon hospitality room, complimentary! Even the rate quoted for the airport limo. service is a special rate for the "Flying Horsemen" of the 449th!

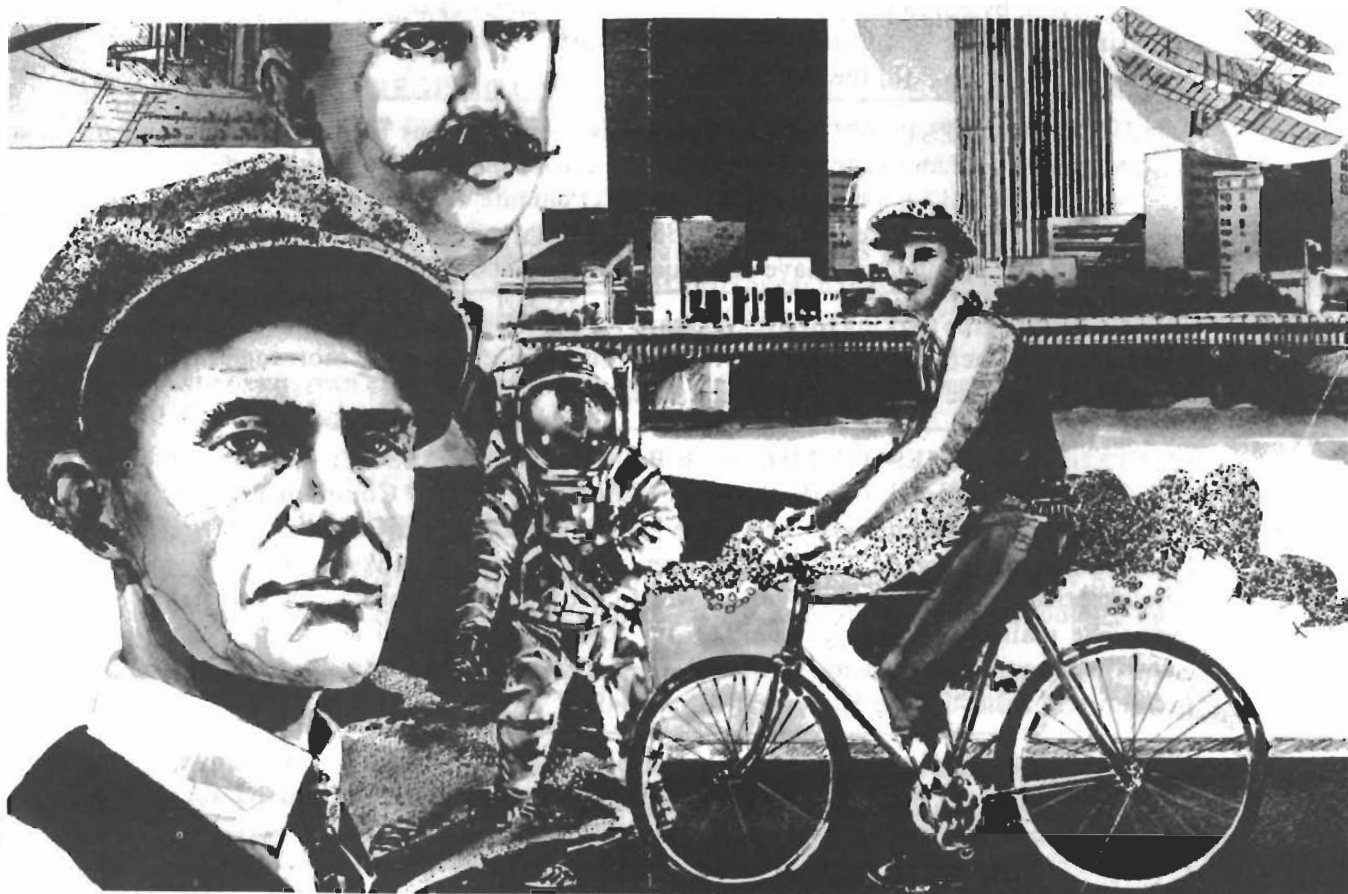
RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: year-around indoor/outdoor swimming pool, electronic game room, hydrotherapy pool. Golfing and tennis buffs will find that there are a number of courses and courts convenient to the Hotel.

RESTAURANTS: the Hotel has two, open until 11 p.m. . . . there is a Denny's restaurant available, nearby, open 24 hours.

"AVIATION TRAIL". on Friday, Oct. 25th, 1985 we will schedule **two tours** of the Dayton area **"Aviation Trail"**. The longer tour, **Tour "A"**, congregates in front of the Marriott at **0915**. It will **return** to the Marriott at **1530**.

Dayton. . . The "birthplace of aviation" is the city of aviation "firsts". Wilbur and Orville Wright built their first airplane in Dayton, and trained the first pilots in Dayton. The Aviation Trail connects historical aviation sites, telling the significant contributions to flight. The historic Wright Flyer III, ancestor of all modern aircraft is housed in Dayton. Two museums display Wright family memorabilia and aviation artifacts.

The tours begin and visit the Dayton Convention Center where the **Aviation Hall of Fame** is located, the two pylons set 120 feet apart (the distance of the first flight), a 60x20 ft mosaic mural; another stop is at the **Old Courthouse Museum** and the Wright brothers documents, through the **Wright neighborhood**, the **Wright brothers print shop**, their **cycle shop** (for they were bicycle builders when they built their first Wright Flyer), through **Carillon Park** and its **historic buildings**, into the **Kettering-Moraine Museum** (inventors of several world known items and patents. . . the self starter, for one!). . . **past the South Field** (site of the beginnings of flight), **Hawthorn Hill mansion** (the Wright brothers home), **Woodland Cemetery** (final resting place of the Wright bros.). During Tour "A" a lunch stop will be made at the "Old Spaghetti Warehouse" (all entrance fees and the lunch of this tour are included in the tour price of \$22.00 each). The restaurant is a maze of antiques. . . both sets of doors are from Lloyds of London. . . many booths are of brass bedsteads, a full set of armor, the lobby, game room, bar area, dining room and library are packed with side boards, hutches, and various collectibles. **Tour "B"**, a shortened version of the above tour, minus the lunch stop is \$13.00 per person. . it congregates in front of the Marriott at **1245** and **returns at 1645**. These tours are only available on Friday, Oct. 25th.



U.S. AIR FORCE MUSEUM

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OH 45433

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26th, 1985 is 449th BOMB GROUP DAY at the United States Air Force Museum. . . Dayton, Ohio.

Our Reunion/ Anniversary schedule provides air conditioned buses from the Marriott Hotel to the A. F. Museum with shuttle return. The first bus leaves at 0930. . . the last bus departs the Museum at 1530.

This is the main Air Force Museum. . . diagrammed to the right (from the Museum pamphlet) is the various aircraft located under the impressive air-conditioned roofed specially built hangar. . . the Wright bros. era, World War I, the 1920-30 era, WW2 trng a/c, WW2 combat a/c, the 1950/60's, Korea, Vietnam, and Space Age.

Two showings of a WW2 B-24 combat film will be shown especially for the 449th Bomb Group Reunion. These times will be announced.

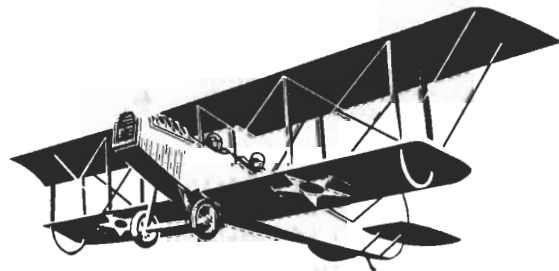
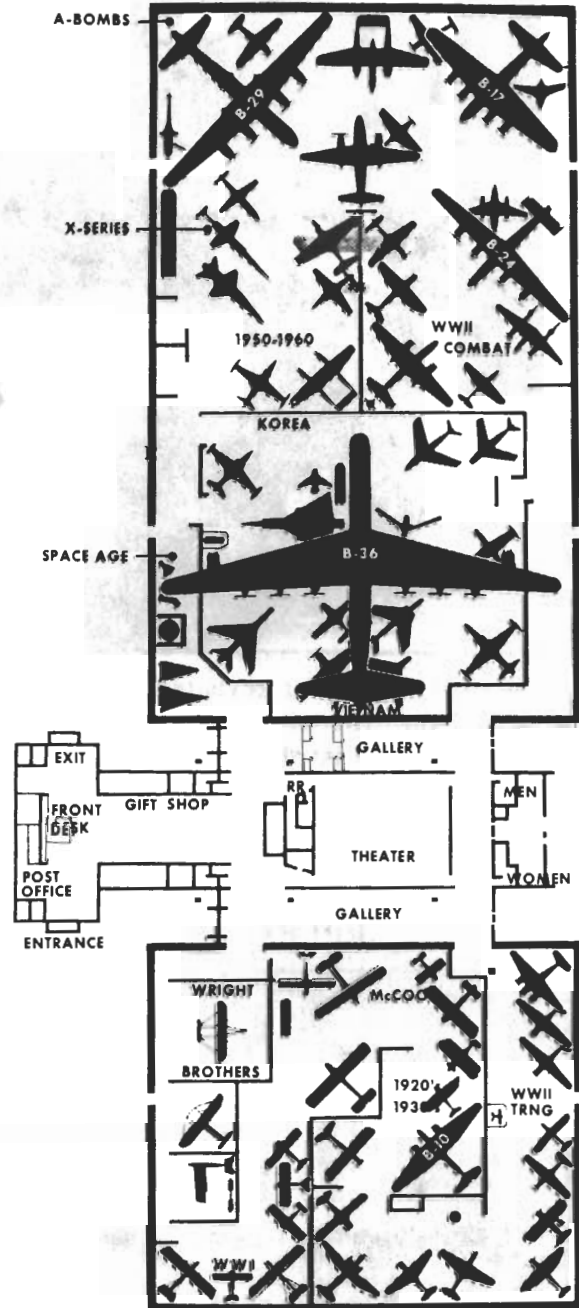
Be proud of the Air Museum. . . it is the most noted in the World. . . it is free and open to the public 364 days every year (closed only on Christmas). . . our fees are zero. . . the buses expense is paid thru each members reunion registration fee.

There is an adjacent Memorial Park, where various Groups have placed their Memorials. . . it is the area to your right as you face the front long side of the big hangar. There is a large gift shop for purchases, a large cafeteria for your lunch, fine restrooms, a comfortable viewing theater. . . . but do be prepared for some walking. . . this you can limit by viewing the items per this diagram and pacing yourself.

No pets are permitted. . . photography is encouraged, although flash equipment will be required. Sack lunches are not permitted in the Museum.

This is the type of Museum you can visit time and time again. . . . there are many photographs, uniforms, paraphernalia, medals, memorabilia, and all technically correct and all of original design and use (except where noted as duplicated, due to extreme rarity). Some foreign a/c, particularly of WW2 German vintage!

Several of our own Group members have flown in the very identical aircraft now sitting under the large hangar! Now that really grabs you!!!!





(former bomber pilot and his co-pilot take a spin around Austria)

In 1984 Bob Bird revisited Austria and the site of the remains of "Pistol Packin'

Mama". During this visit the town villagers gave them a warm reception and a gala celebration

with the pilot of the Luftwaffe that had shot their crew down. Birds crew had also accounted for the Luftwaffe plane. The two men exchanged plaques. . . between the 449th Bomb Group and the JG27 German Fighter Squadron, with the engraved words. . . . "may our guns never fire in anger again."

Bob and Deane Manning presented their souvenirs of their ship at our first Reunion in Tucson, Nov. 83. . . . their story and photos appeared in the Tucson newspaper and in the 449th Reunion Album!

449th BOMB GROUP CAPS:



We gave 225 caps to the attendees of the first reunion, Tucson, Nov. 83. . . . pictured at the right are; Vince Moran (TG), Bob Zacharias (FE) of the 717th Sqdn.

So many requests have come in for caps that the committee approved the purchase of additional caps to be sold at the 2nd Reunion in Dayton. They fit all size heads, bald and hairy!

The B-24 pictured is at the Pima Air Museum, in Tucson. . . formerly of the Indian Air Force and estimated to be the last flyable B-24J in existence in its time. It has since received some tail markings of another B-24 Bomb Group. The B-24D at the Air Force Museum was of the 376th Bomb Group, a sister Group to the 449th, in the 47th Wing of the 15th Air Force, WW2. . . its name is "Strawberry Bitch." It is one of many WW2 aircrafts to be seen during our Oct. 26th visit to the Air Force Museum.

REMEMBER THIS ADMONITION. . . . given at every flying school during WW2?

"AVIATION IN ITSELF IS NOT INHERENTLY DANGEROUS BUT LIKE THE SEA, IT IS TERRIBLY UNFORGIVING OF ANY CARELESSNESS, INCAPACITY OR NEGLECT"

. quoted by every Flying Safety Officer in every major Command of the United States Air Force.
 it is applicable to-day, just as it has been since the very days of Orville and Wilbur Wright!

SPECIAL NOTE: DISCOUNT AIR TRANSPORTATION ON PIEDMONT AIRLINES

A special discount has been arranged for 449ers traveling to/from the Dayton Reunion! This is being handled thru **Cu 1 Travel** . . . based on a 30% discount off Piedmont's already low coach fare. Reservations may be made and airline tickets issued up to 7 days prior to scheduled departure from home cities. **GUARANTEED LOWEST FARE AVAILABLE.** To make reservations call **CU 1 Travel: 800-835-5158.** The fares will be allowable between 24 October and 29 October 85. **Identify yourself as a member of the 449th Bomb Group.** A \$25.00 admin. fee will be assessed to the indiv. for all tickets that must be refunded after issuance.

ORDER FORM

For a History of the 449th Bomb Group... "Tucson to Grottaglie", by Damon Turner and "And This is the Way it Was" by members of the 449th Bomb Group Association. Written in a single volume.

Find Enclosed _____ for _____ books at \$20.00 per book.

Please make checks payable to the 449th BG Association

Name _____

Street or Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Attn: Col. James Miller
103 Gatewood Avenue
Simpsonville, SC 29681

Deadline for Book Orders June 25th

A MEMORIAL FOR THE 449th?

Some of the members of our Bomb Group Association have expressed the thought that we should dedicate a Memorial of some type to the city of Grottaglie, Italy. I have checked this thought with several of the Squadron Commanders—and they liked the idea. Accordingly I have volunteered to act as an interim committee chairman to find out the Association's feelings in this regard—and plan to pose the question this fall.

As a preliminary, we need to know your thoughts, and answers to some of the questions. The first is, Do we really want a 449th Bomb Group Memorial at Grottaglie? After all, some of our fine young members gave their lives there. Others were wounded, others became prisoners of war. All were heroes. It was a most important period in our young lives. It would seem proper that we do dedicate a memorial of some type.

If our answer is Yes we do want a memorial... then there are other questions....

(1) What should it be? What will its appearance be, in other words we need a design. I know some of you will have ideas—please submit them soon.

(2) What should be the cost restrictions? This, of course, will influence the design.

(3) What should be the restrictions? We need deadlines, a time frame so we can initiate the project.

(4) What are the political ramifications? Senator Bentsen, former 716th Squadron commander is looking into this for us.

(5) Our reunion is scheduled for the 24th to 27th of October, only a few months away. We need your thoughts, suggestions, etc.

To assist me and to get a better "squadron feel" would you address your views, suggestions, to: 449th Group Headquarters, Jack L. Randolph, 6220 Geneva St., Ventura, CA 93002, (805) 642-5519.

The 449th BGA Newsletter

Compiled, written by
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Printed & co-written by
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449th BGA Historian

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YOUR FINAL CHECKLIST

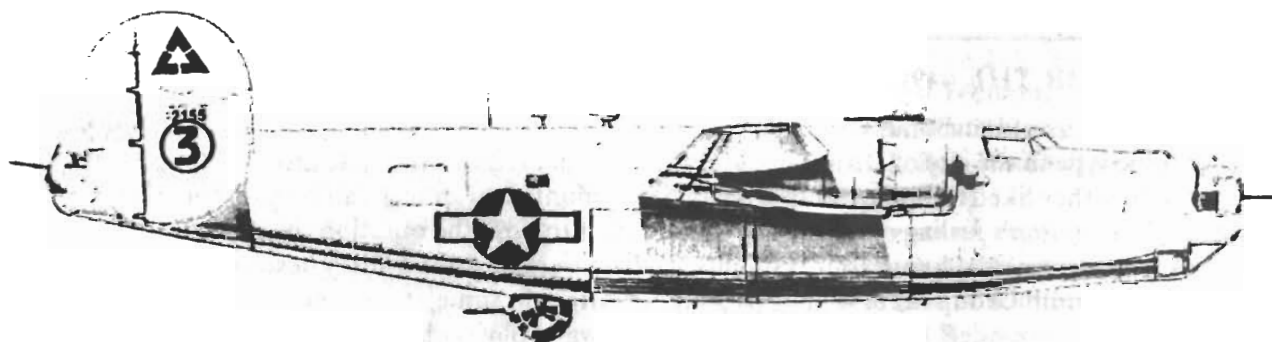
1. Complete the enclosed **449th Advance Registration Sheet!** Mail to; R. Downey, Secy., 4859 Stanhope Drive, St. Louis, MO. 63128; and **attach your \$15.00 registration fee** (make check to; 449th Bomb Group Assoc.) . . this is for reunion expenses. . . one fee per member, one fee only per family (includes guest family).
2. Complete **Marriott Hotel Registration Card**, enclosed. Mail to the Marriott Hotel with one nights rental, minimum. (they will send you a confirmation). We have a "cut-off" date. . . room reservations must be received by them **prior** to October 11th (by the 10th) or our rates will not apply, and space is not set aside (blocked off for the 449th).
3. Read this **JUNE 85 NEWSLETTER** thoroughly. . . . it covers each day, each event.
4. Note that the prices of each event are outlines on the Advance Reg. form. Send no money for these events, only the reg. fee. . . . and your tickets with Reunion Envelope will be readied for you in Dayton!



449th Bomb Group Association



"FLYING HORSEMEN"



2ND REUNION AND 42ND ANNIVERSARY

449th Bomb Group Assoc.
716-717-718-719th Bomb Sqdns
& 348th Service Sqdn.
15th Air Force (WW2)
Richard F. Downey, Secy.
4859 Stanhope Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128

FIRST CLASS



2ND REUNION INFO.

JUNE 85 NEWSLETTER!