



90th Bomb Group (H) (WWII)
The Best Damn Heavy Bomb Group in the World

“JOLLY ROGERS”

90TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



Robert J. Tupa, Treasurer 273 Wellington Cutoff, Wellington, NV 89444 E-Mail rjtupa@yahoo.com Phone 775-465-2930
February, 2009 Volume 122

90th Bomb Group 2009 Annual Reunion
Dayton, Ohio
Oct 28-Nov 1, 2009

Details of the National Reunion are coming together! We have worked hard to ensure this reunion has the right balance of fun activities and relaxation and we're sure everyone will have a great time. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn in Fairborn Ohio (<http://www.holiday-inn.com/fairbornoh>, ph. 937-431-4613). Rooms will be \$99 per night, plus tax. The schedule of events are:

Wednesday – Registration & hotel welcome reception; hospitality room open.

Thursday – Breakfast bar for every day included in the price of the room. Visit Wright Brothers historic sites; lunch at Young's Jersey Dairy; dinner on your own; hospitality room open.

Friday – Visit National Museum of the United States Air Force; tours of the restoration of the *Memphis Belle* and the Presidential Aircraft collection; lunch on your own in the museum's Valkyrie Café; banquet and dancing at the hotel; hospitality room open.

Saturday – General Membership Meeting; hospitality room open; banquet at National Museum of the United States Air Force among the historic aircraft.

Full details and the registration form will be in the May newsletter. If you have questions before then, or would like an advance registration form, contact me at:

Colonel Jeff Smith
412 Brett Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45433
tintinkerouac@earthlink.net

2009 Eastern Mini Reunion is being sponsored by George Taylor. The reunion will be held at the Holiday Inn, Battlefield in Gettysburg, Pa. from Tuesday April 28th until Saturday, May 2nd. A Saturday night stay was not possible due to heavy advance bookings. The hotel is located at 516 Baltimore Street, Gettysburg. The

phone number is 717-334-6211. The room rate is \$101 plus tax for a \$110 total. There is a restaurant in the hotel where breakfast and dinner are now available. Lunch may also be available by the time we arrive. However, there are many places to eat nearby. **Reservations should be made directly with the hotel by March 30th, 2009.** We have 20 rooms reserved, 2 smoking and the remainder non-smoking. Be sure to tell them you are with the 90th Bomb Group. I am scheduling several tours where there will be some walking required, but individuals should still be able to enjoy themselves even if they have limited mobility. I believe we will also want to see other things but I am leaving that for discussion once we get there. We will have plenty of information available when we arrive.

If coming by air, we suggest flying to either Harrisburg or Baltimore and renting cars because there is no public transportation into Gettysburg. If you have any questions please call or email me and I will try to answer your concerns. (see attached registration form) I hope we will see a lot of you there.
George and Alice Taylor

2009 Western Mini Reunion is being sponsored by Bob Hanley. The reunion will be at the DoubleTree Hotel in Anaheim, California on May 13th – 17th, 2009.

Wednesday, May 13, 2009 – Arrival at the DoubleTree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County – registration packets will be distributed in the lobby area. Hospitality room will be available from 3:00pm on.

Thursday, May 14, 2009 – At 11:45am, we will take the DoubleTree shuttle to the Los Angeles Angels Stadium in Anaheim for the opening game between the Los Angeles Angels and the Boston Red Socks. Return shuttle will pick us up at 4:30pm (obviously, this is approximate, baseball being what it is). On our return, there will be complimentary chocolate chip cookies with coffee and tea in the Hospitality room.

Friday, May 15, 2009 – At 7:00pm, we will take the shuttle to the Plummer Auditorium, Fullerton, to see the Fullerton Civic Light Opera production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I". Showtime begins at 8:00pm and ends at 10:30pm, including intermission. The shuttle will take us back to the hotel by 11:00pm.

Saturday, May 16, 2009 – At 10:00am the shuttle will take us to the Bower's Museum in Santa Ana to see the new exhibit, "The Art of the Samurai" visiting from the Tokyo National Museum for two months. Included are beautifully crafted swords, armor, tea ceremony utensils, and screen and scroll paintings, ranging from the 10th to the 12th century. We will have our own docent for an exclusive tour. The group will then be free to lunch on site at the Tangata restaurant and/or visit other exhibits. We will be returning to the hotel at 2:00pm. (see attached registration form)

A DAUGHTER REMEMBERS HARRY BOLLER

The Balikpapan Oil Refineries in Borneo were Japan's source of fuel to feed their war effort. If those refineries could be bombed and enough damage inflicted, the Japanese war effort would be severely curtailed. Without refined oil to refuel its planes, ships and transports, it was hoped they would have no chance to regroup and rebuild.

Of the 63 missions flown by Harry as a bombardier during his 27 months in the Southwest Pacific, the 2600 mile round trip mission to Borneo was one that stood out in his mind. After various modifications were made to their B-24's to accommodate the great distance, the planes were nearly 12,000 pounds over their payload limit. Planes from the 90th Bomb Group left their camp on Biak Island and flew to the staging area on Noemfoor to join the other B-24 groups on the first raid against the Balikpapan Oil Refineries. It would be the longest mission flown by group of B-24's thus far. Shortly after midnight on September 30, 1944, that group of more than 70 Liberators rumbled off the runway and disappeared into the night sky.

Prior to reaching their target, those B-24 Liberators, unescorted by fighters because of the tremendous distance, encountered extremely heavy resistance by enemy fighters and anti-aircraft fire. The entire group suffered extremely heavy losses. Despite limited visibility, they dropped their payload and headed back to Noemfoor amidst a barrage of heavy fire.

For whatever reason, the crew elected to bypass the airfield at Noemfoor and flew directly to Biak Island where their camp was located. When they attempted to land at Biak, they were waved off because of a wreck on the runway. Consequently, they had to cross another small body of water to another airstrip on another island. When their B-24 landed, just as their wheels touched the runway, first one engine and then another failed until all

four engines were silenced. They were completely out of fuel. Harry considered himself one of the lucky ones to return from that harrowing mission ... many did not. It was something that my father never forgot (*Linda Boller Phillips*).

I'M GOINT THO HOLLYWOOD

My grandfather, Norman Lawler, was the 90th Group Adjutant after A. C. McDonald and before Frank Fosket. In 1943 he was 45 which made him older than almost everyone in the group. Before he died in 1984 at 86 he gave me envelopes of pictures that he told me to take care of. Unfortunately he did not document his wartime experiences and twenty years ago information on the 90th was almost non-existent. Then in 1990 Michael J. Cundiff published his book *Ten Knights in a Bar Room*. His book gave me the magic word Tom Fetter and the door to the 90th Bomb Group opened. Correspondence with Tom led me to Wiley Woods, John Dunlap, Loyde Adams, Gene Girer, Slim Somerville, Bill Martin, and Steve Novak. Each gave me bits and pieces of the history of the 90th. I wish I would have taken up Steve Novak on his offer to send me slides to have prints made of his pictures but family life and work on the police department seemed to take my time. Then came the internet. I got a scanner and scanned my grandfather's pictures and sent them out to anyone who might fill in the gaps. Interesting people like Hal Hevener, Phil Gowing, Norman Janke, David Burns (and his wife Jane), Jack Pelander, Bob Wegner, Harry Dow and his wife Laura (Miss Kiwanis), Bob Snodgrass, John Soloman, Jim Worley, to mention just a few, who share information and occasionally let slip accounts of truly heroic actions. All this is a lead in to the main point of this article. Along with this information I also get requests for information and pictures. One such request came from Jack Smight. Jack emailed me that he had been a member of the McClellan crew and he wondered if I had a picture of Old Ironsides. That was one of the planes that they had flown. Jack said that the proudest moment of his life was when they helped transport liberated POWs to Manila. After a period of emailing I asked Jack what he did and he just told me to Google his name. Welcome to Hollywood. Next time you watch the movie *MIDWAY* take the time to watch the credits and you will see that Jack is the director. Due to space limitations I can only touch on some of the other films and television shows he directed. *Harper*, *The Illustrated Man*, *Airport 1975*, *The Secret War of Harry Frigg*, *The Man From Independence*, *Rabbit Run*, *The Favorite*, *Number One With A Bullet*, and *Fast Break* are just some of the movies he directed. In television he directed multiple episodes of series such as *Madigan*, *Banacek*, *McCloud*, *Kraft Suspense Theatre*, *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour*, *Route 66*, *The Twilight Zone*, and *General Electric Theater* to name a few. Just another Jolly Roger. Jack Smight died in 2003. (*Bob Tupa*)

Milton Schiff Remembers Harry Bullis

I was saddened to hear of the death of my CO in the 400th Bomb Squadron, Col. Bullis. I served under Col. Bullis from the inception of the 400th until he was promoted to Group Headquarters. He was the most caring CO any soldier could have. I was assigned to supply and the next morning having gotten a pass to town I and a buddy were waiting at the bus stop when Lt. Bullis stopped by and asked if we wanted a ride to town. He addressed us both by name. He knew all the men under his command and always cared for them and worried about their welfare...I told my wife what a great man Col. Bullis was and told her additional remembrances of "My Hero" during the time under his command. That was the highlight of my period of service. I will always remember him. Milt Schiff-Supply Sergeant

A Jacket, a Book and some Maps

S/Sgt Leonard Linkugel was in the 319th Squadron, stationed in Australia. He was not assigned to a designated crew but filled in when others could not fly. He started out as a radio man and later became a gunner. In 2007 he moved into a retirement home. His sun tan jacket was lost in the move. This was a devastating loss to him.

His daughter, Karen Siems, cast about the internet trying to find a replacement, but to no avail. We received one of her queries.

William Dubrowski, also of the 319th, died May 5, 2007. In the summer of 2007 his wife, Patricia, called stating that she wanted to send some items that her husband left. When we opened the package that came, we found a jacket of the exact size and description Ms. Siems was seeking, a squadron book and some fascinating wartime maps of William Dubrowski's travels with the 90th and a date annotated world map of WWII.

Leonard Linkugel got his jacket. The book and maps reside at the Flight Museum in Santa Maria, California. *Bob Ford*

TAPS

These buddies, wives, friends and comrades-in-arms forever remain heroes.

Lois Case just notified Bob Ford that her husband **James H. Case** passed away on January 29, 2009. I will have more on Jim in the next newsletter.

Pat Maitland telephoned and notified us that her husband **Herbert Maitland** passed away on November 12, 2008. Pat also notified us that one of her husband's crew members, **Alfred Crosson** died on May 14, 2008. Herbert and Alfred were members of the 321st Squadron.

Bob Ford notified us that **Edward V. Godfrey** passed away on January 5, 2009. Edward was a pilot in

the 320th Squadron and the Loyd crew and also served in the Vietnam War.

Lee Wardlow notified us that **Leland H. Jones** passed away in May of 2008. Leland was a waist gunner on the John Stewart crew in the 320th Squadron from Mindoro to Japan.

Walter Dauffenbach notified us that his crew member **Samuel G. Dam** died in his sleep on September 9, 2008 in Bar Harbor, Maine. Sam was a waist gunner on the Bassett and Hennessy crews in the 320th Squadron.

It is with sadness that I report the death of **Frank Eufemia** to the remaining members of our Bomb Group. His wife advised me that Frank died in December 2008. He was a gunner in the 321 Squadron and he participated in aerial battles from Nadzab, New Guinea- to- Biak Island, the former Dutch colony- to- Mindoro, the Philippines-to-Ie Shima, Okinawa., and the bombing of Japan. He participated in seven campaigns of battle including French Indo China, China, and the final battles to conquer Japan. He was an outstanding crew member (DeCamp) and a loyal friend to all. Regretfully, there very few of us left. Frank I salute you!! With Love to all,
Captain Edward Xavier Weber, USAF (ret.)

Warren J. Basham died on December 12, 2008. Warren was a pilot in the 319th Squadron.*

David Haynes reports to us that his father **Burnett D. "Hank" Haynes** died January 25, 2009. Hank was a tail gunner in the 319th Squadron with the JB Martin crew.

Jana Carter Broxson notified us that her mother **Kathryn Carter** passed away on October 20, 2008. Kathryn was the wife of Jewel Carter, 90th Headquarters, who died in 2003.

George W. Kamrass passed away on July 27, 2008. George was a pilot with the 90th.*

Carl D. Camp passed away in his home on Panama City Florida on October 25, 2008. Carl was part of the Gottke crew in the 320th Squadron and also served in Korea and Vietnam.*

Fred L. 'Lee' Wahl passed away on May 3, 2008, in Sussex, Illinois.*

Walter J. VanHarken passed away on October 9, 2008, in Newark, New Jersey. Walter was with the 319th Squadron.*

Walter J. Misuda passed away on September 24, 2008. Walter was part of the Bogan crew in the 320th Squadron.*

Edmund K. Brzezinski passed away on May 13, 2008.*

William G. Barr Jr. passed away on April 20, 2008. William was a command pilot with the 319th Squadron.*

Monroe W. Copher passed away on November 26, 2007.*

Charles E. Decker of the 320th Squadron passed

away on June 22, 2007.*

George R. Edwards of the 319th Squadron passed away on February 19, 2007.*

Ted C. Gaines of the 319th Squadron passed away on April 13, 2007.*

Kenneth L. Gerlach of the 321st Squadron passed away on November 12, 2007.*

Arnold Koffler of Headquarters passed away on October 31, 2007.*

* Contributed by Kenneth Sheats.

Special thanks to Charles Ray for donating \$100 to the Association in memory of his father **Charles W. Ray**, 320th Squadron.

NOTICES

DUES: Year 2009 annual dues of \$10 are payable now. The date shown on the line above your mailing address on this newsletter indicates when your

membership expires. Make checks payable to 90th Bomb Group Ass'n. Mail them to 90th Bomb Group Ass'n., 273 Wellington Cutoff, Wellington, NV 89444.

If the letter W, H, or L is in the line above your address you need not pay dues, but we would appreciate your notifying us from time to time if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter.

For those whose dues expired on 12/31/06 this will be the last copy of the newsletter you will receive unless past dues are paid, \$30, by May press time. However, the letter will be carried on John Barrett's web site at <http://jollyrogersweb.com>

If you receive the letter by Email, it will be followed by a paper copy later. To ensure that I have your email address please email me at rjtupa@yahoo.com.

DEADLINES: Items for publication must be here in Dallas by the 15th of February, May or October in order to be included in that month's issue.

90th Bomb Group Western Reunion May 13, 2009 to May 17, 2009

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
Spouse/Friend: _____ Ph #: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

Thursday, May 14, 11:30am to 4:30pm: L.A. Angels vs. Boston Red Sox Game \$29 # _____ Amount \$ _____

Friday, May 15, 7:00pm to 11:00pm: Fullerton Civic Light Opera production of "The King and I" \$43 # _____ Amount \$ _____

Saturday, May 16: Bower's Museum exhibit, "The Art of the Samurai" (10am to 2pm) \$14 # _____ Amount \$ _____

Saturday, May 16: Banquet at the Doubletree Hotel (Each entre comes with a garden salad, rolls, rice pilaf, a choice of black forest cake or apple strudel and coffee/tea)

Grilled Salmon \$38 # _____ Amount \$ _____
Grilled Chicken Breast \$38 # _____ Amount \$ _____
Total: \$ _____

PLEASE MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS
Make your check payable to "90th Bomb Group Ass'n."

Please mail your check by **April 15, 2009** to:

Robert B. Hanley, 1601 Indus St., Santa Ana Heights, CA 92707.
Telephone # (714) 979-0868

DOUBLETREE HOTEL ANAHEIM/ORANGE COUNTY

100 The City Drive, Orange, CA 92868-3204
(714) 634-4500 / Fax: (714) 978-3839

Special reunion rates: \$109 plus tax for single and double occupancy from Wednesday, May 13, 2009, to Sunday, May 17, 2009. Rates are available two nights before and two nights after the reunion dates. Breakfast for two per room is included. Parking is \$6/a day (half price). Please mention that you are part of the 90th Bomb Group reunion when you make your reservations. Super Shuttle from John Wayne Airport (Orange County) is \$10 per person, one way. The DoubleTree Hotel Anaheim/Orange County is within walking distance to 'The Block' which has over 100 shops, restaurants and entertainment centers. It is also 2 miles from Disneyland Park, the Crystal Cathedral and the Angels Stadium. Each room has internet access, cable TV, iron and ironing board, a coffee maker and complimentary coffee and tea as well as a hairdryer. On the first floor, there is the Lobby Bar, Starbucks and the Trofi Restaurant, where the buffet breakfast will be served. Transportation to the event costs and gratuities are included in the event price.

REGISTRATION FOR 2008 EASTERN MINI REUNION

DATES: APRIL 28, 2009 TO MAY 2, 2009

Holiday Inn, Battlefield, 516 Baltimore Street

Gettysburg PA

(717) 334-6211

Please complete this form and mail with your check to 90th Bomb Group Assn. To:

George Taylor

108 Eddington Ave.

Harrisburg, PA 17111

(717) 564-0355

GUEST(S)

If more space is needed, please make copies of this form

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Spouse, Friend _____ Your Phone # _____ Sqdn. _____
Your Street Address _____
City _____

ACTIVITIES

Hospitality Room: @ \$5.00 = \$ _____

All prices shown are per person. Lunches and dinners on your own, unless specified otherwise

Tuesday, April 28, 2009 Registration 2:00 P.M Hospitality Room

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 Tour Battlefield by bus: @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Thursday April 30, 2009 Tour Eisenhower Farm (Get bus at Visitor's Center) @ \$ 6.50 = \$ _____

Friday, May 1, 2009

Banquet at the hotel: Choices are: Stuffed Chicken Breast or. @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

Roast Pork Loin @ \$25.00 = \$ _____

(Will include appetizer, vegetables and dessert)

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Saturday, May 2, 2009

Departure

PLEASE RESPOND TO GEORGE TAYLOR BY APRIL 1, 2009

Make a copy of this form for your records.

email skipper3@verizon.net

Information regarding this year's Eastern Mini.

The easiest way to get to the hotel is by Route 15 from either the north or the south. Get off at the Baltimore Street (or Pike) exit and drive approximately 2 1/2 miles toward Gettysburg to the hotel which will be on your right, just before the first traffic light you come to. The hotel has a liquor license so we are not permitted to bring our own booze. If an individual wants a drink, all they will have to do is walk across the hall and show their name. We will have purchased the beer, wine or whatever so they will have from our private stock. We will still have snacks and soft drinks and so on in the hospitality room, where we will have our Friday night banquet.

NEWSLETTER NOTICE

SPOUSES OF JOLLY ROGERS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER. IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER PLEASE NOTIFY THE TREASURER (Address, telephone and email are at the top of the Newsletter) IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU BY MAY THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER MAILED. IF THERE IS AN ASTERIX ON THE W ABOVE YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS LABEL YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID YOUR DUES AND WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE THE LETTER. THANK YOU

THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES SINCE 2006 IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU BY MAY FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER PLEASE NOTIFY THE TREASURER. IF YOUR NAME ON THE ADDRESS LABEL INDICATES THE DATE YOUR DUES EXPIRED.



90th Bomb Group Association
273 Wellington Cutoff
Wellington, NV 89444

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

