



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

"JOLLY ROGERS"

90TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION



Robert G Ford, Treasurer
February, 2007

8320 San Leandro Dr, Dallas, TX 75218

Fax 214-327-0338

Phone 214-327-8796

E-Mail rrford@hotmail.com

Volume 116

2007 National Reunion Announced

The 2007 national reunion will be hosted by Ervin Hartman September 19-23, 2007, at the Santa Maria Inn, Santa Maria, California. Details and registration forms are presented in this May issue of *Jolly Rogers*. Call Erv at 805-937-1856 if you wish.

Report on the Eastern Mini Reunion

A total of 27 attended the Mini in Dover, Delaware. We were surprised with a short visit by the Verocchio family who now have four boys, having added one more since last year's reunion.

The citizens are certainly not hiding the fact that Delaware was the first state to join the United States. According to our host, Jim Ciliberti, "it is one of the largest states in the union at low tide."

All of us who served with the 90th Bomb Group in the Southwest Pacific sported some sort of attire that made us conspicuous as veterans. At least, that's what seemed to be the case. Starting at the World War II Memorial we were greeted by not just school kids but also mature adults offering thanks for our service. One of those adults volunteered to tell us of the system used

State News Saturday, May 19, 2007

The Downstate Daily



Delaware State News/Daniel Korup

Members of the 90th Heavy Bomb Group who reunited in Dover are, front row, from left, James Ciliberti of Smyrna; Frank Silva of Groveland, Fla.; Herman Shanker of Bayonne, N.J.; Jack Thacker of Fairborn, Ohio; and Jerry Rosenbaum of Bedford, Va. Back row, from left, are Joseph Liba of Leonard, Mich.; Charlie Berk of Peoria, Ill.; John Johnson of Warminster, Pa.; and Robert Ford of Dallas.

to place the state plaques. Each of the States are presented in the order in which they joined the union. Midway between the stairs which are at opposite sides of the circular pond is where the first state is located. No doubt this person who told us this is from Delaware, because, sure enough, Delaware is in dead center. The second is directly across the pond: the third is next to Delaware on the right, etc.

We visited the Air Force memorial, where we received a couple of surprises. First of all, the memorial's simple beauty is overwhelming. Then Charlie Burke brought a group over that he thought we would like to meet. It was General Seth J. McKee, his strikingly pretty and youthful wife, their son Thomas J. McKee, and two officials of the Air Force Monument. Gen. McKee, 91, was commander of the Fifth Air Force at Fuchu Air Station, Japan from 1966 to 1968. Thomas is past president of the Air Force Association and trustee of the Air Force Museum. Mrs. McKee was exuberantly pleased with both of them. She should be very proud of herself for having a major role in both of her gentlemen's careers.

At the Dover AFB museum we received a royal welcome as we viewed the aircraft on display. There a photographer took the picture you see displayed on the previous page.

Jim Ciliberti deserves to feel proud of himself for the excellent job he did in selecting tours and for taking us to very good dining establishments.

About Next Year

Filomena Berry will host the 2008 national. She plans to make known some of her recent plans at the 2007 National Reunion. Stay tuned

George Taylor has expressed an interest in hosting an Eastern mini in 2008. He is in the early exploration stage right now, but may have some preliminary comments at the 2007 National.

Iron Range

Our chief foreign correspondent in Australia, Michael Musumeci advises that his transfer from Lockhart River (Iron Range) has been approved. He will be moving to Ravenshoe, in the Atherton tablelands, the highest town in Queensland. Mike describes the area as being " lush, green and extremely beautiful to say the least." His new duty station mailing address will be:

Michael Musumeci
Officer in Charge Sgt 10825
Ravenshoe Police Station
Grigg Street Ravenshoe
Old Australia 4872

His Email addresses remain the same:

At home Ironrange189@hotmail.com

AtworkMusumeci.MichaelD@police.qld.au

He wants to stay in touch, and he sends his thanks to all of you who helped him in his effort to keep the 90th Bomb Group alive in the memories of Australians.

Events

EAA air show at Oshkosh, Wisconsin will be held on July 23 through July 29. For several years the Jolly Rogers (90th Bomb Group Association) has had a presence there. This year Harold and Alice Stickney will manage a presentation about the 90th in the Museum Theater on July 27, according to Ben Mays.

Several organizations, including the participating members of the 90th, are seeking volunteers to relate their flying experience. So if you would like to speak about the Jolly Rogers, here's your chance. Remember, if it's about the Jolly Rogers, it ain't braggin'.

There are many attractive features to this air show- too many to mention in our newsletter. Those who want to attend or investigate further should call 800-564-6322. Those of you with a computer available, can type www.airventure.org in the address bar to get complete details.

Books

A limited number of *Legacy of the 90th Bombardment Group*, by Wiley Woods, Turner Publishing Co. is available for sale to our members. Send a check for \$39.00 payable to the 90th Bomb Group Association to Jason Dilworth, 1311 East Amity Avenue, Nampa Idaho 83686. Be sure to include your correct address.

Tie Tacks

The mayor of Custer, SD, Harold Stickney, has made arrangements to have more of the very attractive B-24 tie tacks available for \$22.00 each, P&H included. Mail a check payable to:

Harold D Stickney
346 N. 7th
Custer, SD 57730-1241
Ph. 605-673-3750

The Customers Always Write

Not all our correspondents send death threats, hate mail or crank letters when they write us. Read this:

Just wanted you to know how much I appreciate the work you do on the Newsletter for the 90th Bomb Group Ass'n. I particularly enjoyed the bit on Iron Range in the latest. I enjoy reading the comments people send you on their experiences with the 90th. I only wish I had some to pass on. I have both Wiley Woods' and Andy Lord's books and the accounts are still exciting for this old man even though I wasn't there

during the hard times.

I joined the 90th at Mindoro late in the game and my finale was being summarily sent from Ie Shima-as an individual- to fly with the 2nd Combat Cargo Group in Japan after the war was over. Obviously, my crew and I did not have enough points to even talk about going home. The sorriest part is that I never got to know anyone in the outfit or even find out what ultimately happened to my crew members. We lost contact completely as my new address book burned up in a barracks fire at Yakota, Japan. In fact, the only member of the 90th that ever really talked to me was a Cpt. Van Arsdale who, at the time was the Ops Officer in the 319th. I never met my squadron commander, his XO or anyone at Group. Being one of the “new guys” was kinda like smelling bad... But I did fly several “ash and trash” missions after the shooting stopped: saw the bone yard at Biak, lost an engine near Tacloban flying an old war weary getting there; almost go washed out of the sky by a typhoon; and I did have one very lasting and positive experience: I flew three or four trips taking the American POWs in Japan from Okinawa to Manila, probably the most humbling experience of my life.

...I have often felt sorry for myself in not having been involved more with “HE BEST DAMN BOMB GROUP IN THE WORLD” during their “glory years”. But on the other hand, I spent time in Japan with Military Government after no one wanted my flying skills any more, and saw first hand what an invasion would have cost us. I guess all things considered I was lucky. All of us that got back were.

Sincerely, Jim Brooks.....

I thoroughly enjoy the Jolly Rogers letters that come every 6 months or so. I haven't been coming to the annual reunions because I was still working. (I'm a cardiologist until recently.)

I think I'll pay my dues for the rest of my life because I don't think I'll live more than 10 more years, if that. I'm 85 now.

I am enclosing the obituary of Ned Wesener whom I know because he lived in Indianapolis. He was in airplane maintenance for the 400th and did a good job. It is amazing how little trouble we had with those “prehistoric” planes. It was because of people like Ned Wesener caring for them.

I might see you at one of the reunions. I'll try.

Sincerely, Robert W. Palmer, M. D.

.....
Retired after over 50 years in practice.....
4 sons: 3 doctors and 1 computer nerd.....

One grandson, 2 years old. Cute and smart.

Taps

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

John Welch sent a clipping relating the death of **Frank J Potenzo** on January 11, 2007. John served as radio gunner in the 320th Squadron.

Ann Schinke sent us a note stating that her husband, **Edward C. Schinke, jr.** died February 4, 2007. Edward served in the 320th Squadron on the Donald Budke crew.

Frank X. Harrington died January 21, 2006. He served in the 400th Squadron. His wife, Marie, wrote us a letter concerning their life and Frank's regard for the 90th.

Jasper Skinner called from Florida to tell us of the death of his co-pilot, **Thomas E. Anderson**, on November 24, 2006. Both were in the 321st Squadron.

Augustus “Gus” Joseph Rahm died in the arms of his wife, Irene, on December 2, 2006. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with military honors. Gus was a pilot with the 320th Squadron. His son, Richard, sent an Email which is shared with us in The Customers Always Wright column.

Helen Lord writes us that she has been informed that **Helen Fosket**, widow of Frank Fosket, died on September 11, 2006. Helen and her husband, who was an Intelligence officer and photographer in the 319th, attended many reunions and were hosts at a mini in Santa Rosa, CA.

Loyde Adams Emailed us that **William E. Artz** passed away on May 18, 2007. William was an instrument specialist in the 321st Squadron.

Dr. Robert W. Palmer sent a newspaper clipping about the death of **Ned C. Wesner** on April 28, 2007. Ned was in aircraft maintenance in the 400th

NOTICES

DUES: Year 2007 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., 8320 San Leandro Drive, Dallas, TX 75218.

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 periodically if you wish to continue receiving the newsletter.

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.



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2007 NATIONAL REUNION- SANTA MARIA, CALIFORNIA

SEPT. 19- SEPT. 23, 2007

REGISTRATION

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____ M.I. _____

SPOUSE, FRIENDS, GUESTS _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP+4 _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____ SQDN _____

Please complete this registration form. Make your check payable to the 90th Bomb Group Association. Mail to:

Ervin Hartman
 233 East Foster Rd.
 Santa Maria, CA. 93455-3130

Phone: (805) 937-1856
 Email:ervanna@webtv.net
 Fax: (805) 937-4850

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Wednesday, Sept. 19 Registration and Hospitality Room open.

Thursday, Sept. 20. Vandenberg A.F.B. tour with lunch at the Officers Club and Heritage Museum.*

_____ Tickets @ \$28.00 each-----\$ _____

Friday, Sept. 21 Santa Maria Museum of Flight at the Airport with a Santa Maria style

Bar-B-Q Buffet at the hotel.

_____ Tickets @ \$37.00 each-----\$ _____

Saturday, Sept. 22 Reunion Banquet with entrée choice of:

(No.) _____ Prime Rib @ \$37.00 each-----\$ _____

(No.) _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu @ \$33.00 each-----\$ _____

I also enclose my National dues for 2008 (\$10.00 per membership)-----\$ _____

TOTAL-----\$ _____

* LIST YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS. WE MUST HAVE THEM THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE TOUR.
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS: _____

2007 NATIONAL REUNION- SANTA MARIA CALIFORNIA

SEPT. 19- SEPT. 23, 2007

RESERVATIONS AND NOTES

ACTIVITIES

Vandenberg Tour: No.____ Amount \$ _____

Flight Museum: No.____ Amount \$ _____

Banquet:

Prime Rib: No. ____ Amount \$ _____

Chicken: No. ____ Amount \$ _____

2008 Dues: No. ____ Amount \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

HOTEL

Santa Maria Inn

801 S Broadway

Santa Maria, CA. 93454

Phone: (800) 462-4276

Rates: Double Occupancy (Plus 10% Room Tax)

Original Inn ---- \$95.00

New Tower ----- \$115.00

Cut-off date for rooms is August 19th.

Mention 90th Bomb Group. Jolly Rogers

TRANSPORTATION

Air: United Express/Sky West Airlines have five flights daily to Santa Maria from LFX.

For hotel shuttle call 928-7777

Driving from the south: Hwy 101 N exit at Stowell Road and turn right. Go three stop lights and make a right turn onto Broadway. The Inn is three blocks on the left,

Driving from the north: Exit Hwy 101 S at Main Street and turn right. Go about two miles turn left onto Broadway. The Inn is several blocks on the right.

Write your reservation No. here: _____

