

★ 451 ★

# AD-LIB



FOR THE MEN WHO FLY 'EM • FOR THE MEN WHO KEEP 'EM FLYING

ISSUE 12

MARENGO, IL

## INTRODUCING NEW PRINT FORMAT

In an effort to cut costs of putting together, and in the printing of the AD-LIB, we are trying various "NEW-TECH" methods. Through the use of the computer, and its various components, (and once I become accustomed to using them) it should make the NEWSLETTER a more affordable project. We shall continue to have the HISTORY professionally typeset, so all pages will remain in the same typeset mode. It may be necessary to change the ROSTER layout to some degree--hopefully agreeable to all. I would appreciate hearing your comments as to your approval--or disapproval. (Bob K.)

### COMPUTER REALIZED

Many members of the new 451st were aware of our need to enhance the operation of our organization. Both, as it stands today, and as we expect it to grow in the future. To realize, and to anticipate this continuance of growth, we saw the need to "go computer." In the last issue of AD-LIB (Issue 11), we gave notice that M/Sgt Dana Street (Hdqs) would be actively working towards that goal.

And indeed he has!

Dana Street wrote numerous letters, not necessarily seeking funds, but just to get an input as to IF, and HOW, we could go about getting the equipment we needed. The favorable responses he received all noted the need, and the various ways that may be explored to generate the required funds. Many ingenious methods were suggested, and some of the better ideas will be stored in the "bomb-bay section," till a new need arises.

Without too much fanfare, Dana "worked" the reunion crowd, and once more stirred up interest. Needless to say, it paid off. Without divulging names (as it was requested they wished to stay anonymous) the monies were forthcoming.

With the help of "those that are in the know." Guys like Willard Gill (727th, employed by the IBM Co.); Peter



Bob K., Sedge Hill, Peter M.  
(Sedge Presents Photo Album)

1984 DAYTON REUNION  
ATTRACTS NEARLY 600

In the recapping of an event, such as our reunions, it is customary to start at the beginning. In this way the chain of events do form a continuity that can be easily be followed by those that attended and those that could not attend. But from my perspective the whole weekend of August 9th to 12th culminated in its truest meaning during the last few hours that we were together.

What I saw, as our reunion began to "break formation," was the deep feeling that we all felt towards each other. It was immediately after the Sunday Church Service, while standing on the promenade second floor level, gazing out the windows overlooking the carport loading area, that the impact of what reunions are all about struck me -- and struck me HARD.

There I stood, for the moment alone, watching our guys loading their cars, with the watchful eyes of a couple of buddies overseeing it all. I could see there was a lot of good natured bantering going on as the suitcases were stowed in the car trunks.

But, then came that awkward moment when the trunk lid was closed and the time for actually saying good-bye was at hand.

As easy as it was to see the carefree joking that was prevalent a few moments ago, it was now easy to note the change in attitude that overcame these friends of yesteryear. The joking ceased and the faces became very somber. I half expected to see the standard handshake and a pat on the back the final farewell, which could be expected if they were JUST friends. But such was not to be the case. For a lingering moment they stood and eyed each other, then as if to tell the world, "TO HELL WITH PROPRIETY, THIS IS MY BUDDY" they gave each other a warm, parting embrace.

In the short time spent overlooking the area, I saw several similar incidences. Men who have NEVER felt so disposed to show their feelings in this manner, were openly displaying their emotions as they took temporary leave of a friendship -- to be once again RENEWED in two years time.

(cont' page 2, col. 1)

**"AD-LIB"**

451st Bomb Group, Ltd.  
Publication

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and published by.....  
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**REUNION**  
(cont' from previous page)

And just what is it that brings about this feeling of camaraderie? Is it the valley of lost contact that has finally been bridged after almost 40 years? Or, is it the emotional build-up that takes place in, and during, A Reunion? I guess the answer would have to be "both of the above."

But to consider holding a reunion without the basis of a solid wartime friendship would be about as absurd as trying to organize a reunion from the remnants of a Group that did not have the prestige generated by these very men that served within its ranks. I do find it ironic that our Group seems to fit the "Catch 22" syndrome. The GROUP made the men - and -the MEN made the Group.

And now, forty years later, we again find our emotions to be the catalyst that brings us all back to one location. This time we find its a REUNION, rather than WORLD WAR II, pulling us back together.

OPTION DAY, 9 AUGUST 1984  
(R3 -D1)(Reunion #3)(Day #1)

A new innovation for this reunion was the addition of an extra day. It was discovered, from our two past reunions, that quite a few families took advantage of our reduced hotel rates and arrived a day or two early.



Dana Street Peter Massare  
Checking Vintage of  
"Rooster Blood Wine"  
(day and hour bottled)

Thus, we felt obliged to make an attempt to program some form of activity for all the "early birds."

Other than offering our early arrivers the chance to register early, we also set up GROUP TOURS. These were to offer our people a bit of the local history pertaining to the Dayton, Ohio area. As is often the case, these new FIRST TIME ventures do not always "fly" as we would have wished them to. Seems that the Tour Company underestimated our needs and had trouble coming up with the necessary (on time) transportation. But, like we have always done in the past, we overcame the situation and had a chuckle about it later.

Golf was surely a worthy attraction that took a number of our members to the links. Golf Committee person, Harold Clements, set up, with the Wright-Patterson AFB, the necessary clearance for our members to play (I use the word, PLAY, advisedly) one of the courses on the Base. A few "gimmee's" and a couple "I gottcha's" were sometimes offered in exchanged, and in lieu of, setting any kind of course record.

Thursday evening saw a migration of our people to some of the fine nearby restaurants. This was nothing



FILM CREW  
Bill Bias Director  
Kellis Allen Cameraman

formal - thus, it was called an INFORMAL dinner. The restaurants had all been notified, so it wasn't all that big a shock when we descended en'masse.

FRIDAY, 10 AUGUST 1984  
(R3 - D2)

Those that had arrived for the Thursday happenings, awoke Friday to the thoughts of another day full of enjoyable events. Hartline Tours, as had been arranged, picked up our prepaid members for the special "Aviation Trail" tour. Those that were participants, saw the parts of Dayton that were made prominent by way of Wilbur and Orville Wright. They were truly the leaders and forerunner to the event that we became part of, as WWII members of the 451st. I'm referring, of course to the advent of powered flight.

Registration proceeded throughout the day, with lots of "meetings & greetings" taking place whenever a name was "dropped" or a face recognized.

Our registration table was set up with some purely saleable items, namely; caps (courtesy, Arthur Gallagher (726th), bumper stickers and window decals (Marengo AAFB).

But...what was most favorably noted was the original painting by the renowned Aviation artist, Paul R. Jones. This painting showing a formation of 451st aircraft, in tight formation, as they were heading for the target. Aircraft were painted in, both, olive drab and, as was the case as new ships were accepted by the Group, in the new aluminum finish. High altitude vapor trails stream from the B-24s as well as from the escort fighters that appears overhead. I consider it a truly dramatic and overwhelming portrayal of "what was." Major Jones is to be commended for his effort.

Towards our effort Major Jones had his original painting lithographed, and to cover his cost, sold many of the "reproductions" to our member for \$10 apiece. In appreciation to our past history, and the acceptance afforded him by our membership, Paul Jones has given us 100 prints that we can dispose of as we wish. So, by keeping in line with the price established by Paul Jones, and to cover the mailing cost as needed by the new postage rates, we would like to offer one of these "limit-

ed edition"lithographs to any members that would contribute \$13 toward the continuation of our 451st Bomb Group, Ltd. (Check article beneath accompanied picture)

Evening saw the doors to Ballroom being open, wherein a lot of "greeting, gabbing, gratification, n'guzzling (we were light on the guzzling)" set the tone of our pleasure.

A flag presentation was conducted by members of the 704th Squadron of the C. A. P. (OIC, 1LT C. L. Gallagher). A "Display of American Flags--- Evolution & Procession," was presented by the 178th T. A. C. Fighter Group, ANG, based at Springfield, Ohio

The balance of the evening was enjoyed with spirited dancing (records from the 40s D. J.'ed by David, one of the Gallagher boys) and in just listening (The Chordials; Ladies Barbershop Quartet), and in viewing some black & white slides(brought by way of, and from, the Marengo---Army Air Force Base). (If you believe we have an airbase at Marengo I've got a bridge across the Mississippi River I'd like to offer for your consideration)

I would be remiss not to make mention of the fact that somewhere between my second drink and "Call to Quarters," Sedge Hill, of the 727th, offered formal presentation of an album of photos that he and his son, Michael, had put together. Co-founders, Pete Massare and I, gratefully accepted the album in behalf of the 451st.

SATURDAY, 11 AUGUST 1984  
(R3 - D3)

BUFFET BREAKFAST, kinda reminiscent of our overseas "chow lines," started our day. Missing were our Medics with their roster of names and atabrine tablets, checking us off as we came ambling down the line. Instead was an array of excellent "chow" and another chance to elbow-up to some of our crewmates and/or tentmates.

Buses awaited us for a 10 AM loading for our trip to the U. S. A. F. Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Fairborn, OH. Upon arrival we were offloaded in front of our Memorial Site. A large tent awaited our comfort as we prepared to pay homage to our fallen comrades.

Our ceremony was administered with as much decorum and honor, as we, the surviving members of the illustrious 451st, could offer our

## INTERLUDES AND VISIONS

By: Bob Karstensen

The die is cast, the bell has rung,  
the parade has ended, its finale sung.  
The engines have "shut down" one by one,  
the cockpit is empty, its job now done.

But wait,... is that cockpit really still?  
Don't you hear the cadence of a check-list drill?  
Can't you hear the starter begin its whine;  
can't you see the props, cut an arc so fine?

Does your body recoil at the noise you hear,  
as those four big engines charge the air?  
Can you sense the power that's the pilots' tool  
when he "walls" the throttles to "pour on" the fuel?

Do you feel the tension, or has it dimmed by time,  
when you sat by the runway, all revved and prime;  
and to know the pilot, on the early roll,  
is lining er'up, with his rudder control?

Can you feel the drama, as you lift and climb,  
n' search for your leader; fighting the time?  
Can you see the earth slip away 'neath our wings,  
and not remember just some of these things?

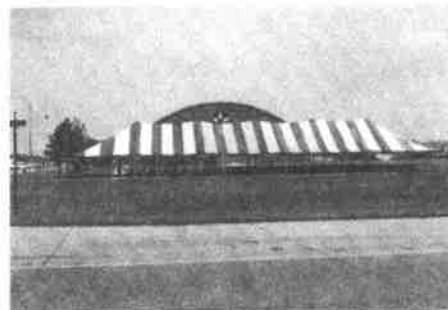
Does the tone of those voices, spoke in haste, not in dread,  
give an uneasy feeling of what lies ahead?  
Could that knot in your stomach return once again,  
to the words, "I see fighters...keep an eye on 'em men!"

Would the smell of raw cordite, in that high atmosphere,  
give you feelings of anger, or tremors of fear?  
Could you forget the numbness of the subfreezing cold,  
would your blood run hot, from these visions retold?

Would you still feel compassion, for the ship and its men,  
who are drifting away, trailing smoke without end?  
Do your thoughts still evoke those pleas turned to shouts,  
"Tom's ship really had it!...why don't they bail out?"

Do you still count the chutes, as you did way back then?  
"...that's seven and eight.... com'on nine and ten!"  
Does your mind still consider, "If that had been me,  
would my comrades remember, would my folks pray for me?"

So a look in the cockpit that is empty and still,  
brings back shadows of comrades, dangers, and thrills.  
Tho we close down the hatch, turn away engines' roar,  
but forgot what has happened...?I can guess, nevermore.



OUR MEMORIAL SITE  
U.S. Air Force Museum  
Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

departed wartime comrades. In eulogy, and by our presence, we paid tribute to the brave men that offered their lives for our country.

Those that participated in our Dedication Ceremony

were: M/General Robert E. L. Eaton, (presenter of Title Transfer to Colonel Richard L. Uppstrom, Director of AF Museum); M/General James B. Knapp, and Colonel Leroy L. Stefen, (presenters of the



Attending Troops



Col. Uppstrom, M/Gen. Eaton,  
Col. Stefen, M/Gen. Knapp,  
Col. Ryan

Memorial Wreath); Rog Johnston [724th, POW], Col. Lloyd Ryan [725th, Sqdn CO], Arthur Gallagher [726th, Ordnance], and Arthur Morin [727th, Combat Gunner] (Honor Guards to the placement of the Memorial Wreath); Col. John O'Connor, [724th] (Bugler for "Church Call & Taps"); Bill Bihn [726th] and Lois McNerney, (Vocal Soloist & Accompanist, offering "Battle Hymn of the Republic" & "Leaning On The Everlasting Arm"); Wright-Patterson Ceremonial Flag & Rifle Team (Presentation, and Retirement, of Colors-21 Gun Salute); and yours truly, Bob Karstensen, doing some of the detail arranging, and offering a few remarks.



Placing Memorial Wreath  
M/Gen. Knapp and Col Stefen

In as much as this was a project that took a long time in its preparation, I would be remiss not to give a great deal of credit to the person that work and watched over it from the very start. That man was Robert E. Horn. Bob saw to the selection, and planting, of our Living Memorial (Tulip Tree). He saw to the selection of our Site, oversaw to the casting, and placing of our Memorial Plaque. Bob saw to all the details that had to be done on an "on site" basis.

But Robert Horn was not

among us for our Dedication. Bob passed away just weeks short of our Ceremony. Bob was much like the men we honored..... He did as much as he could - with the time that he had. I, personally, owed much to Bob for his untiring effort. And from our Group he was deserving of our deepest, and everlasting gratitude.



"WITH THIS MEMORIAL, WE WHO SERVED IN THE RANKS OF THE 451st BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF OUR HEROIC WW-II COMRADES." "BLOODED IN BATTLE.....CLEANSED BY COURAGE"

3 DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS

25 FEBRUARY 1944.....REGENSBURG, GERMANY

5 APRIL 1944.....PLOESTI, ROMANIA

23 AUGUST 1944.....MARKERSDORF AIRBORNE, AUSTRIA

10 CAMPAIGN STARS  
245 COMBAT MISSIONS  
ACTIVATED MAY 1943  
INACTIVATED SEPTEMBER 1945  
DEDICATED 11 AUGUST 1984  
\*\*\*\*\*

Upon completion of the Memorial Dedication Ceremony, we all retired to the Museum Theater to hear the welcoming remarks of the Museum Curator, Col. Richard L. Uppstrom. Afterwards most of us directed our attention to the many various aircraft that were displayed within, and outside, the walls of the Museum. These aircraft spanned an era of the most earliest recorded flight, almost up to the latest space adventures with the Challenger space vehicle. Within the visual history is offered a view of the era that involved us - World War Two. An excellent array of training, fighting, and bombing aircraft were there for us to see. The noted and renowned B-24 D. STRAWBERRY BITCH, participant in the in-

famous LOW LEVEL PLOESTI MISSION, was of keen interest to most everyone. It should also be recalled that at one time the "BITCH" shared a portion of the San Pancrazio airbase, while we, as a Group, shared the same field with the 376th Bomb Group. This was when we had to abandon the airstrip at Gioia del Colle, due to the poor runway conditions. We were later to move up to our more permanent, and last operating base, Castelluccia di Sauri.

Upon completion of the Museums' attractions, many spent time viewing some of the items that were offered for sale by the Museum Book & Memorabilia section.

Buses awaited us, at intervals, to transport us back to our hotel.

Saturday evening called for all of us to assemble for our Cocktail, Banquet, and Oratorical sessions. Upon entering the Ballroom each lady was presented with a single rose, and the men were given an affectionate "hard time," by the reception committee that greeted them.

Lt. Colonel Jack Hoppock (727th), in his most eloquent manner, called the "troops to order" and introduced those at the head table. Aside from our regular attendees; M/General Robert E. L. Eaton, M/General James B. Knapp, Colonel and Mrs. Leroy L. Stefen, Colonel and Mrs. Hoppock, and myself (Bob K.), there were a few new faces to be seen. Peter and Clara Massare (V. P. of the revised 451st--but--first time attendee), Reverend and Mrs. Pafford (giving our meeting his spiritual guidance), -- and last, but not least, our principal speaker, Major General Monroe T. Smith, Commander, Air Force Acquisition Logistics Center.



Guest Speaker  
M/General Monroe T. Smith,  
Commander AFALC

General Smith offered an outline of his duties, peppered with humor as to how the public views his duties, and position.

In the Presentations of Awards part of the evening, a



M/General Eaton  
Addressing the Troops

plaque was presented to General Smith for his participation in our reunion. I'm sure that those attending our reunion will recall my gaffe, when in presenting the award, I carelessly referred to the plaque as a WREATH. I had no wish to make this a dedication, rather I had hoped to make a nice formal presentation. (Seems that I still had my mind back at the Museum, doing THAT presentation.) The rest of the presentations, I think, went along without too much trouble. Peter Massare



Peter Massare  
Awarded Recognition Plaque

accepted an award for his efforts in regards to the establishment of the NEW 451st organization. Art Gallagher was presented an award for the labors that he offered towards this reunion. And I, in turn, was presented with a beautiful water color painting of "one of our 451st aircraft" as done by one of Chicago's noted water color artist--Mrs. Jack (Kay) Hoppock. This "original painting" was presented, not to me alone, but to my safekeeping for the Group. So someday it will be passed on to the Air Force Archives, when the functions of the 451st Bomb Group (H) Ltd. are no longer in operation.

During the dining portion of the evening, we offered our attendees a chance to recall some of those evenings we spent recuperating our confidence while resting on the Isle of Capri. We had, for this evening, engaged the



Artist, Kay Hoppock presents original painting to Group



(Standing in background)  
Kay & Jack Hoppock  
(Seated) Clara Massare

services of a musical string ensemble that, like back on Capri, circulated among the tables playing for the benefit of our members.

Many of you may have taken note of the young man, a Mr. Kellis Allen, who, under the tutorship of Lt. Col. Bill Bias (726th), was handling the duties of a video-cameraman. The resulting video-tape is awaiting editing, and hopefully, if enough interest is generated, will be edited and made available to our members.

Throughout the three day span of time, we had a professional photographer, in-house. His duties were to take portrait pictures of all those attending, plus candid shots of some of our activities. These were to be contained in a Memory Booklet that was offered to the interested parties who wished to purchase them.

SUNDAY, 13 AUGUST 1984  
(R3 - D4)

With the last day of our planned activity, and Church Services being that final act Reverend John Pafford looked out from his makeshift pulpit onto a full house. Rev. Pafford gave us a "good old down home" type service, that was punctuated with some excellent vocalizing by Bill Bihn.



Reverend Pafford  
Offering Scripture and Verse

And, when the chance came for the rest of us to put forth, some spontaneous and heartfelt feelings went into the hymns.

When it seemed like the last word had been spoken - the last hymn sung - there seemed to be a feeling of an omission that pervaded the congregation. Everyone hesitated... somehow wanting JUST a little more. Not accepting the fact that the Reunion was coming to a close, and for this time, this was II. But there did come a meaningful finale to the whole experience... for off in the corner where Lois McNerney and John O'Connor had accompanied our singing with their piano and trumpet, came a very tentative and subdued offering of "America, the Beautiful." As if this was the awaited moment, all stood where they were and from a feeble beginning, the singing swelled until it filled our chapel with a truly humbling but patriotic joy.



John O'Connor & Lois McNerney  
Church Service Accompanist



Bill Bihn, Vocalist

To me this was the "key, or the latch pin" to the enjoyment of the whole reunion.

(cont' page 6, col. 1)

Our good-by's were said, not to each individual, but to the feeling that is inspired by these type of events. We were reaping the rewards for what had been our experiences some 40 years ago. I found this to be the key for the emotions that I had discussed earlier in this article. The feeling of one buddy for another.

So now we will await a renewal of these experiences, and emotions, when next we meet in 1986.

\* \* \* \*

Listed below are the Dayton, Ohio Committee who, through their suggestions, efforts, and knowledge of the area, made the reunion the success it became. In alphabetical order: Karl & Doris Bierbaum, Wilfred Bias, Harold & Louise Clements, Art & Margie Gallagher, Robert E. (dec.) & Julia Horn, Forrest & Ruth Rinehart, Harry & Ruth Rhode, and Jeston & Esther Wiest.

Our special thanks to the United States Air Force Museum, Colonel Richard L. Uppstrom, Director, for the special considerations extended in our behalf towards making our Memorial Dedication a truly unforgettable experience.

COMPUTER  
(cont' from page 1)

Massare (727th, he has two sons, Frank & Peter, that are in the computer field), and of course, Dana Street, we purchased a "top of the line" IBM PC XT. Along with that we purchased a NEC P-3 printer, adequate in both speed, and quality, to our immediate needs.

The SOFTWARE was selected for ease of learning, and its ability to perform the functions that are required. We went with, what is called -PFS Software, (File, Write, Report, Plan, and Proof) This system can be expanded, as its needs become apparent.

To date I've placed, in FILE, all the names (closing in on 1200), addresses, and such pertinent information as relates to each members' - past & present - status. To enhance this file, I'd appreciate, when next you communicate with this office, such information as your phone #, date of birth, wife's name, and if you were a member of a combat crew - your original

pilot. Some of the above information I've already taken from previous correspondence. But to be as complete as possible, try to add these into your next mailings.

So, to Dana and Hilda Street, I'd like to express my thanks for a "job well done." And to those that saw our need, and "got themselves involved," my thanks to you.

Upon being informed of our September purchase, Dana asked if I'd run this note of appreciation to all involved. It is certainly fitting, appropriate, and so well put. Here goes:

COMPUTER  
AND RELATED EQUIPMENT  
HAS BEEN ACQUIRED

Dana Street wishes to express his deep appreciation to the members who responded to his request for donations and suggestions on how to obtain the computer, printer, and necessary software.

We are still accepting funds to enhance and maintain the system. So to those that would still like to contribute, please send along whatever you feel fits into your budget. Contributions may be mailed directly to Bob K., Marengo Illinois.

It is indeed gratifying to know that members of the 451st will still carry out their assigned mission to a successful completion. In remembering the often used words of our first Group Bombardier, Major Frederick W. "Honest" Hughes;

"TARGET SIGHTED,  
TARGET DESTROYED"

(SIGNED) Dana Street

INFORMATION NEEDED ON  
EUGENE G. GOODNER (KIA)

Once again our office has tried to offer a bit of help to the family of one of our comrades, killed in action.

On this occasion an article was run in the Air Mail section of the Air Force Magazine, requesting information from anyone who may remember, or have known the situation surrounding the death of Eugene G. Goodner. The article was written by Lt. Colonel Robert Johnston, on behalf of his wife, Ronnie. Ms. Ronnie

Johnston was the daughter of Eugene Goodner.

The events of that day, 17 March 1944, as recorded by this office, are as follows; Aircraft #42-52156 (725th), returning from a mission to Vienna, Austria, was forced to ditch in the Adriatic Sea due to engine trouble. Crewmembers on board were: 2LT Ralph N. Darrow, pilot; 2LT Ralph W. Schecter, co-pilot; 2LT Irving Wallace, navigator; 2LT Eugene W. Fletcher, bombardier; T/Sgt Mescal F. Johnson, AEG; T/Sgt Charles E. Johnson, ROMG; S/Sgt Clarence V. Boehme, gunner; S/Sgt Perry L. Gilliland, gunner; S/Sgt Joseph K. O'Hearn, ball gunner; and S/Sgt Eugene G. Goodner, waist gunner.

Three crewmembers lost their lives that day. They were; Navigator Irving Wallace, Ball Gunner Joseph K. O'Hearn, and Waist Gunner Eugene G. Goodner.

In an attempt to locate the surviving crew, this office has had absolutely no luck. The only address that was contained within the documents, at this office, was that of Lt. Darrow. And his location, at that time, had him residing at Deming, New Mexico. The efforts to locate Ralph Darrow extended to both the City of Deming and the State of New Mexico. It seems that my mailings have proved futile, and those who were mailed to are little interested in responding to my letters. The phone search of the area does not uncover any families named Darrow.

What we need from you guys is some form of a lead that will disclose the location of any of the surviving members.

Ronnie Johnston has been patiently trying to find the information that would answer some of the questions she has harbored for all these many years. Her immediate need is to seek out and contact one of the crew that took part in the ditching. I think its time that we do for her what we did for Bill Goin, Jr. and Bob Rushing; help resolve the questions that plague her.

If you can offer some information, please contact me or:

LTC & Mrs. Robert Johnston  
USAF (Ret.)  
8805 Chapin Road  
Ft. Worth, TX 76116

451st BOMB GROUP  
REBORN AS STRATEGIC  
MISSILE WING IN 1961

How many of you were aware of the fact that the 451st BG had, at one time, been reactivated? Not too many I'll wager, but it is a fact.

Back in 1961, when the TITAN I (ICBM) program was being intensified, the Air Force honored the 451st by renaming one of the newly organized missile units as the; 724th and 725th Strategic Missile Squadrons--451st Strategic Missile Wing. The base of operation was at Lowry Air Force Base, Colo.

Actually, the Wing that was to become the 451st, was originally conceived as the 703rd Strategic Missile Wing--13th Strategic Missile Division. Though established 26 April 1961, as the 703rd SMW, the Wing went operational, as the 451st SMW on, or about, 1 July 1961.

The purpose in renaming the Wing was to pay honor to the proud heritage that we, as its former combat members, gave to the numbers that preceded the heading of "Bombardment Group, (H)." The Air Force, in seeking a proper and prestigious designation for their newest type of defensive/offensive armament unit, could have done no better than the choice that was finally rendered.

Like shadows from the past, the deeds of the wartime 451st made the name selection an easy choice. In their evaluation of the Group history, they noted with special interest the contributions that the 724th Bomb Squadron offered. This was related, through a historical resume offered each missile man. Within that document is told the ordeal that befell the first Squadron Commander, Major James Beane, when he became and was later released as a POW.

Throughout the 28 page resume could be found the major missions that garnered the Group its 3 Distinguished Unit Citations. In the closing paragraph the author summarized what we already know, but is reassuring to have someone else evaluate our efforts and make comment.

The paragraph reads, "...for the 724th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy was inactivated at Dow Field on 26 September 1945. Thus ended the first incarnation of an

outfit that had seen nearly two years of active duty in Italy; had flown 245 combat missions; had attacked targets in a dozen European countries; had participated in the first, perhaps the only, 100 percent perfect bombing mission flown by a Fifteenth Air Force group; and had been awarded three Distinguished Unit Citations, awards that entitled members of the group to display two bronze oak leaf clusters on the gold-bordered blue ribbon worn above the right breast pocket of shirt of blouse. It was indeed, a distinguished unit.



Construction of Launch Sites  
Titan ICBM, Lowry AFB

The name and record of the 724th survived its 1945 inactivation, and now there is an organization to inherit and carry on the name and that record. For, on 26 April 1961, after more than 15 years of inactivity, the 724th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy was redesignated 724th Strategic Missile Squadron (ICBM-Titan), activated, and assigned to Strategic Air Command for organization at Lowry Air Force Base, Colorado, on or about 8 July 1961. Thus the 724th lives again."

A few similarities existed between the new and the old 451st that this writer has noted, namely that they too, had three commanding officers; Colonel John T. Pocktor, 1 July 1961; Colonel Julius Pickoff, 13 March 1962; Colonel Donald W. Johnson, 9 January 1965 till it, like the wartime Group, also went inactive.

Their tenure, as an operational unit, was twice as long as ours, lasting until 25 June 1965. A total of four years plus, and our commitment lasted a little more than two years.

Much like their prede-

## IN MEMORY

As a continuation of the policy adopted, as per Issue 11 (page 3), regarding a special commemorative announcement to be added within the pages of the AD-LIB, with reference to our departed comrades. May I offer this:

\* \* \*

**EDWARD J. HEMSLEY**

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(Considerations by Mrs. Edward (Donna) Hemsley, and the crew of Robert Blair, 726th)

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**ROBERT E. HORN**

\* \* \*

(Consideration by the Arthur Gallagher family, 726th)

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**LEO F. DORING (KIA)**

\* \* \*

(Consideration by Alva J. Salsburey family, 726th)

\* \* \*

**SAMUEL J. RARDIN**

**FOREST N. JONES**

\* \* \*

(Consideration by Arthur N. Morin family, 727th)

### FRIENDSHIP

Your blessed, my friend,  
above all else,  
by comrades feeling loss.

To be remembered,  
by name and deed,  
as you lead us now, across.

\* \* \* \*

Considerations for the inclusion of the above names was made possible by donations of \$50 or more for each name submitted. If you have someone you wished eulogized, and would accept this humble effort towards that goal, direct your mail to the Marengo Headquarters % B. Karstensen.

cessors, the 451st BG Heavy, the 451st SMW was not without its rewards and accomplishments. During the period of 1 July 1963 to 30 June 1964 their achievements earned them the prestigious Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

One similarity I could not match up, HALLELUJAH!, was that even in their best prepared state, they never had to become wartime operational. Their readiness, as exemplified by the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, was as much a bulwark to the de-

(cont' page 8, col. 1)

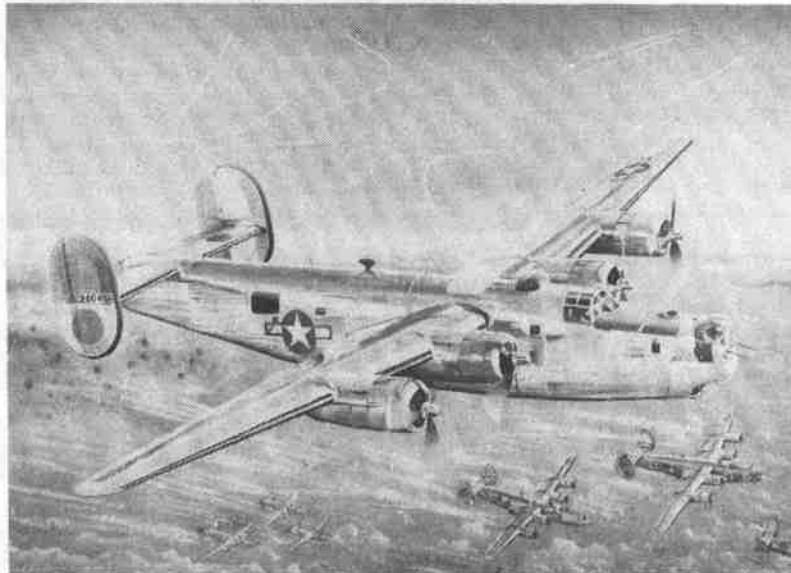
This lithograph, painted by Major Paul R. Jones, is now available to our members for the donation fee of \$13. (mailing costs included)

This colorful reproduction has already attracted some of our Reunion attendees to reorder a second print for presentation to their local VFW, or American Legion Hall.

The original oil painting, as was displayed at our "84" reunion, is to be donated to the Air Force, and as has been the case with other Paul Jones' originals, will find a place within the corridors of the Department of the Air Force.

You would be well-advised to place your order for a print now, as there has already been a serious demand for some of the 100 prints that we were contributed by Major Jones. Since this is a limited printing, once these are gone, "they ain't no mo."

Donations may be sent to; Bob Karstensen, Marengo, IL 60152



HIGH ROAD TO VICTORY  
451ST BOMB GROUP (H) 15TH USAF WING  
JULY 1945

\*\*\*\*\*  
451st REBORN  
(cont' from previous page)



LTC Jay J. Taylor, Commander,  
724th SMSq, 451st SMWg  
Displays trophy won by  
Crew R-12, Lowry AFB, Colo.  
(reproduced from news copy)

fense of our country as we had been an offensive force during our tour in Italy.

The gentleman that introduced me to these facts, contacted me prior to our last newsletter, and offered to mail me such information and items as would be relevant to this story. After a period of discussion, wherein he related his part in the reorganized 451st SMW (Launch Control Officer), I offered him membership in our Group. Major William Meyers, USAF (Ret.) graciously accepted. Bill Meyers was not without combat experience, as he was a member of the 459th BG, flying out of Cerignola, Italy in B-24s. Bill Meyers does become the first, and only, (hopefully not the last) member of Missile Wing to join us as we continue to search out and reconstruct our history.

15th AF ASSOC. AND  
"BOMBARDIERS" PLAN  
SPRING REUNIONS

With the coming of another vacation season, what comes closer to an ex-soldiers heart than to hear of a gathering of his compatriots? Very little, if the compatriots are from the era that is easily remembered and hard to forget.

Those that served under the umbrella of the 15th Army Air Force may appreciate the effort that is going towards their planned reunion, coming up on the 25-28 July 1985, in Seattle, Washington

The 15th Air Force Association, in conjunction with the Boeing Corporation (they are the B-17s makers, in case you forgot!) will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the first flight of the B-17.

It may be that some of you guys had experiences in the "Flying Fortress," thus your interest may be peaked.

To attend, and be a part of the 15th Air Force Assoc., you must first be a member. Membership may be gained by writing to:

15th Air Force Assoc.  
P. O. Box 6325  
March AFB, CA 92518

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"BOMBARDIERS" take note!  
A chance to mingle, commiserate, brag, and just hang out with guys of your own wartime calling, is in the offering. Col. E. C. "Ned" Humphreys, (Ret.) is the "Head Toggleer" in this fully developed effort.

The dates set aside for this "bomb-run" is 12th--14th April 1985, and the location for the "bomb-strike" will be Midland, Texas. Ned informs me that Midland, Texas had the Air Force's largest Bombardier training school. (??, what else would Texas have, but the largest.)

"Colonel Ned" is hoping you can see yourself clear to attend, but in any event, he would be pleased to have you join the organization for its other benefits.

Contact, and full particulars, can be obtained by writing:

BOMBARDIERS  
Star Rt. 1 Box 254  
Eagle Harbor, MI 44951  
(Ph. 906/289-4440)

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My thanks to those that offered photographs for this AD-LIB. A special thanks to REUNIONS, INC for courtesys extended.