



FORMER MEMBERS OF THE

451ST Bombardment Group (H) WW II

49th Wing

15th Air Force



GROUP HEADQUARTERS

724th

725th

726th

727th Squadrons

79-1

-----GENTLEMEN-----

The time has come for Pete and myself to offer you the efforts of our labors. We have, since our last newsletter, uncovered over half a hundred new addresses. We wish it could be more and in time, with a little help from our comrades, it will be. From the letters we have received at this office, we find that a lot of interest has been reborn towards the "FAMOUS FOUR FIFTY FIRST". Some of this interest is due in part to the ROSTER, while still other favorable comments are given to the MISSION LIST and PICTURES. Pete and I wish to continue to bring you the best that is available. The pictures that have been given (or loaned) has given us a valuable library to draw from. The donations of money are truly appreciated and have really been the support that we have come to count on to sustain this effort. It has been suggested that we become a dues paying organization. We would like to avoid this, in-as-much as this would commit us to do our publications on a regular basis. So, if you will bear with us, support us (FINANCIALLY), we'll do our best to give you what we have to share. And to make our mailings on the basis of new members that we are adding to the ROSTER, rather than by what month is coming up.

Pete and I have received much praise for undertaking the reorganization of the 451st. Some thought it was long overdue and why did we wait almost 35 years before getting it started? Well, I guess the answer lies in the fact that no one thought it could be done, ALONE. Neither Pete, with his strong feelings for the GROUP..nor I, with mine. I, for one, look back on my association with the 451st with a HELL of a lot of pride. Nearly 19 years of age and highly impressionable I saw what was expected of men in wartime. I viewed with horror the loss of aircraft and the men within. I saw this reflected in the faces of the ground crew when they realized that the aircraft that they had prepared in the morning was coming back with injured aboard--OR NOT COMING BACK AT ALL. I clung to my memories, thinking that someday--SOMEONE would make contact and I'd find myself in a fully organized unit called "Former Members of the 451st Bomb. Group" I guess I'd still be waiting if it hadn't been for an ad in the VFW Magazine that brought Pete and I together with this common interest. Together we thought "IT COULD BE DONE". And to this point, "IT'S BEING DONE". But look, it isn't Pete and I alone that's keeping this organization alive. The input that you fellows have with us, relating past experiences and letting us share some of the anxieties that you felt. These are the pages of history, that when all put together will show why the 451st was such a great GROUP.....WE KNOW IT---NOW WE WANT THE REST OF THE WORLD TO KNOW IT.....

SHORT HOPS

With the location of Colonel (now, Major General, Retired) James B. Knapp we now have all of our commanding officers involved in our effort. Addresses of our three commanding officers are the lead names that start the listing on our updated roster. L

Included in this mailing, you'll find a pre-paid envelope that, for you aviation purist, may be of interest. Subjects are wide ranging in scope but detailed in content. Again, for you purists, a magazine of worth. From time to time, as other publications are located and have merit, this information will be passed on to you.

Major Haltom (now, Lt. Col. Ret.), in a recent letter related an incident that involved two others of his 726th Bomb. Sqdn. that are on our roster. Capt. Sidney Winski (aircraft commander) and Capt. Marshall Kremers (flight surgeon), plus Maj. Haltom (Sqdn C.O.) were making one of the first stage flights to our overseas destination in Italy. The first leg being from Morrison Field, Florida to Waller Field, Trinidad. It was on this flight that they had the misfortune of losing all power in three of their engines. Seventy miles from the nearest land and only one engine to keep them airborne the decision was made to lighten the plane. Everything that was loose was thrown overboard including guns, baggage, parachutes, etc. Eleven of the fourteen men aboard lost all their goods, except what they had on their backs. But the sacrifice was worth it, they made up the seventy miles with the lightened load. Beane Field on the island of San Lucia came into view and Capt. Winski succeeded in re-starting one of the feathered engines. A safe landing was made and an examination of the faulty engines showed that acid had caused a malfunction in the prop governor wires, thus raising the suspicion of sabotage. After necessary repairs the journey was continued without further trouble. Up to the time of this event the aircraft was without a name....needless to say it was appropriately named "THREE FEATHERS". Anyone else aboard that ship at that time?..let us know.

Former S/Sgt Emmanuel Brown (gunner 724th) is asking for help in the locating of one of the ground personnel, from the squadron, whose quick reaction saved his life. Seems that a gasoline fire engulfed their tent and this crew chief (?) snuffed out the clothing fire, on this young gunner, with his own body. This incident took place during the time that the 724th was stationed at San Pancrazio. Anyone with information relating this happening, S/Sgt Brown and I would like to hear. In the overall view of what happened within the 451st, this incident had little significance, but to the men involved....it was monumental. Thus our interest.

The name of Lt. Sunman has been associated to the crash picture that we sent out some time ago. But after careful research, and the dates being correct, Lt. Sunman crashed on the airfield at, either San Pancrazio or Manduria, on March 21, 1944....Not the date of Sept. 3rd as the picture shows.

MENTAL EXERISE....Anyone recall September 6, 1944 when flak damage put Colonel Eaton in the ditch at Castellucio air base??..Recall the B-26 that crash landed (wheels up) with dead & wounded aboard in July of 44??..How's about those that made the supply run to Lyons France. Recall the burning aircraft of the 461st (?) and the hustling to get our aircraft pushed to safety? This on September 10, 1944... Recall the bomber warfare when Lt. Brown (724th) got shot down by another B-24 (461st B.G.) over the Adriatic? That was March 12, 1944. It was "DOWN IN FLAMES", but no lives lost....Recall the guard duty pulled by the combat crews?..Remember Joe Louis and the USO shows?

REMEMBER.....

.....REMEMBER



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

June 15, 1980

Dear Friend,

On May 2nd we mailed our latest newsletter. Although the mailing was sent by SPECIAL BULK RATE, we felt that we had provided ample time for the packet to reach your home and if it was your intent to attend the 451st Bomb Group REUNION, there would have been sufficient time for you to make your reservations.

Now, as the deadline of July 1st approaches, we find that some of you, that had indicated your desire to attend, have not as yet replied with your YELLOW REGISTRATION SLIP.

This has given us cause to wonder if the mail has not as yet reached your address. Thus the reason for this letter. We would appreciate the return of the enclosed, self addressed POST CARD,....even if you DID receive the newsletter. The information that you return to us will give us an idea as to how efficient the U.S. Postal Service handles our mailings. We have had reports, from time to time, that some of our newsletters have been very slow to reach their destinations...if at all. This will be our chance to find out. Those of you that tell us that no newsletter has, as yet, come your way, we shall get one to you POST HASTE.

To those of you that are attending the REUNION, we would like to inform you that all THREE of our Group Commanders will be in attendance.

And as for our GUEST SPEAKER....Well, we went right to the top and sought out one of our Nations TOP Military Commanders. We have prevailed upon General Robert E. Huyser, Commander in Chief, Military Airlift Command (MAC), headquartered at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, to be our Guest Speaker. General Huyser's knowledge, dedication and ability, regarding our Nations military preparedness, places him as one of the foremost Military Commanders of our era. We are proud that he has accepted our invitation to address our Group. And we look forward to his message, that we may be aware of the military conditions, both good and bad..... at home and abroad.

Now I come to a rather STICKY subject...Financial Support for Financial Stability. When Peter Massare and I organized, back in early 1978, we could easily handle the monetary cost from our own pockets. As the organization grew we realized the need to be State Chartered, for the benefits that would be available under this shelter. Thus on December 5, 1979 we incorporated as a NOT FOR PROFIT corporation. From early on, there were some of you that saw the value of our organization and contributed monies towards its continuance. Now our membership is over 650 and we find the cost, to continue, rather high. It may be that we will have to limit the quality of our newsletter....and/or....eliminate mailings to members that show little interest....and/or....charge a membership fee. Which will in turn be more expensive due to the added bookkeeping. So we're caught between the proverbial "rock and the hard place". A decision will have to be made --NOW-- by you, if what we have going is worth your financial support. Pete and I will make a judgment after we evaluate your response.

HOPING YOU WILL MAKE THE REUNION

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: FORMER MEMBERS
451st Bombardment Group
APO 520
New York, New York

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

Robert Karstensen
1032 S. State Street
Marengo, IL 60152

(Sender's complete address above)

GENTLEMEN:

I have been asked by your friends, who are concerned that you may not be thinking too seriously of attending our forthcoming REUNION, to give you that gentle "nudge" that will take you off that "dead center" position you have maintained since hearing about the Colorado Springs Reunion.

The degree of pressure that I am suppose to impart, on those of you that have not, as yet, "signed on," ranges from a subtle "AW! Come on" to the harsher "Get your 'CAN' off that fence and get in line!" Now, don't blame me for these selection of words....this is the way some of your buddies have come across, in their mailings to me.

I'm not about to plead, badger or drag you physically to this reunion. What I prefer to do, is to work on your conscience. To work on that part of your brain that controls your "memory bank." To remind you of the days (good & bad) that you spent in the company of the guys of the 451st.

Now, between you and I, we know we'll be around for the next REUNION...be it two years down the road or five years in the future. But, have you given consideration to the fact, that though we'll be there, that special buddy may not. Our ranks are thinning....ever so slightly, but never the less thinning. When the day comes that it's just you and I at the REUNION your going to say, "I wish I HAD gone to the Colorado Springs Reunion, back in 82."

But if words alone won't get you off the "fence," then perhaps a capsule outline of what's planned, will. Our Friday night Reception & Debriefing Session (August 6th) will provide you with the theme for the rest of the weekend (music, merriment and mingling). Saturday morning (August 7th) our mission is to the United States Air Force Academy. A TOUR, LUNCHEON and MEMORIAL SERVICE (in the famous Cadet Chapel) are on our agenda. Our Saturday evening BANQUET will bring your "old bones" to life as we partake in a sumptuous meal...listen with care to our guest speaker, General James V. Hartinger, Commander in Chief, NORAD, as he discusses his role in our National Defense, and then our evening will be topped off by the sparkling musical performance of the Air Force Academy's renowned "Moods In Blue." This, I'm sure, will be an evening to long remember. Sunday will be the time for our Interdenominational Church Service....a fitting close to a very memorable and rewarding weekend.

Our REUNION response has been, to date, excellent. The Four Seasons Motor Inn has already had to expand our "room block," in anticipation of our "MORE THAN EXPECTED" numbers. So, don't let this chance pass you by. Let's let Colorado Springs know that the 451st "was there."

Bob K.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

Seasons Greetings



Pete

We've found our friends (both Pete and I)
from days of yesteryear.
who stood with us when duty called
and dared a thing called "FEAR".

But now our paths no longer hold
the frustration and the danger.
And we can seek, again, our friends
to greet 'em "HOWDY STRANGER".

What better way for Pete and I
to show you how we reason,
than to write it down in black and white.
Please.....HAVE A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS SEASON.....



Bob

