

HELL'S ANGELS NEWS



VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

303rd BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1976

FLORIDA REUNION A HUGE SUCCESS

What many of us old 303rd members thought was our first reunion (actually the second) was without a doubt a huge success. Over two hundred members and their wives came from far and wide. Members started arriving a day early and some stayed an extra day or two. A room was set up for the many pieces of memorabilia that was on display. Movies of bomb missions over Europe were shown. This brought back to many of us memories of the good ole days or were they all that good. However some were good and some not so good.

Friday night was get re-aquainted night with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails. Everyone met some one he knew at Molesworth during WWII. It was without a doubt a most memorable evening. We rehashed, relived and retold stories of experiences that happened some 30 years ago. If anyone was ever in doubt as to which group was the greatest had but to listen to all of us on that Friday night.

On Saturday night we enjoyed a trip back to memory lane in listening to Father Skoner after the banquet. Father Skoner was probably the oldest member with the 303rd. He joined the group when it was first organized and stayed with it to the end. He saw us all come and go. On Sunday he offered Catholic Mass for the living and the dead of the 303rd. We all hope to see the good Father at our next reunion. I am looking forward to it.

I believe Col Wm Eisenhart and his charming wife journeyed the farthest to attend. They came all the way from Rhein-Maine AFB in Germany. I also believe he is the only member still on active duty. Any challenges on this?

We had hoped the great entertainer and comedian Bob Hope would be able to attend our get together but he was on tour and already committed. He did send me a letter offering his regrets at being unable to join us. We had also hoped to get Clark Gable's son but at this point we still have not been able to locate him. If

anyone knows of his whereabouts would you let me know. I hope we can find him in time for our next reunion. His father was a very fine and gallant member of our great organization.

Well in spite of the 30 odd years or so since we flew into the wild blue yonder on missions we all still look like we could fly off again. Only lets just make peaceful and to future reunions instead. Lets hope no one has to go thru another war.

A good time was had by all and to those of you who didnt make this one we will see you in '77.

HOW ABOUT SOME MINI-REUNIONS BY SQUADRON???

Is any squadron planning on having a mini-reunion?????? If you are going to meet would you nominate someone to take notes and pictures. Black and White polaroid pictures would be best for reproduction in our newsletter. Also send me a breif outline of time place etc so I can include it in the next publication.

If anyone in the New England, New York and New Jersey would like to start a mini let me know and I will be glad to lend a hand. On any minis or other news items write to me
Al Martel, 142 Pine St, Portland Maine 04102.

EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS PLANNING A EUROPEAN REUNION

A reunion is to be held September 12th 1976 to September 26th 1976. A 707 will be used to transport personnel leaving from Kennedy Airport in NY on Sept 12th. Basic cost per person is \$529.00. This will include fare, accomodations, meals, picnic lunches and other activities. All major credit cards accepted. Time is short if you want to attend write now to
Eighth Air Force Reunion
C/O Reunion Service
P.O. Box 1304, Hollandale Florida 33009.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES ELECTED FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD AT THE REUNION ARE AS FOLLOWS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

CHAIRMAN DON HARRISON
1ST VICE CHARLES MCCLAIN
2ND VICE WM "BILL" EISENHART
TREASURER JOE VIEIRA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN JOE MCCLANE
MEMBERS BOB MOREMAN, WALT MAYER
LOU SCHULSTEAD, RALPH STROHSACK

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN OWEN O'NEIL
MEMBERS SAM BASS, JOHN HUGHES
LEO MCCONAGHY, JACK ROLFSON

PUBLICITY ED RATFORD, AL MARTEL

REUNION COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN CHARLES "CHUCK" MCCLAIN
MEMBERS BILL BAKER, CLYDE BRADLEY
BEN HOPE

If there are any errors in any of the above please write to me for corrections in the next edition.

TREASURERS REPORT AS OF FEB 1976

167 members at \$10.00 ea	\$1670.00
From last reunion	35.50
Total cash recd	\$1750.50

EXPENSES

Bill from reunion in Orlando	\$ 23.80
Membership Comm (O O'Neil)	114.44
Newsletter Print	115.00
Petty Cash	15.50
Total Exp	\$ 268.74
Cash	\$1705.50
Expenses	268.74

On hand in checking account \$1436.76

SEND DUES TO OWEN O'NEIL

Dues are \$10.00 for a five year period. Best investment since Calvin Coolidge was President. Mail your checks or whatnot to Owen O'neil, 751 Troy Ave, Spring Hill Fla 33512. DO IT NOW ////////// Get on the Hell's Angel's good angel list ?????? Dont wait ????? Why should you ?????
Owne is probably the nicest guy I know of to send ten dollars to ////////// He gets very lonesome waiting for checks to come in. Watches for the mailman everyday ////////// Lets keep Owen happy ////////// Dont be a fallen Angel ever.

A KEY HOLE LOOK AT SOME OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 303RD BOMB GROUP FROM MOLESWORTH

First aircraft to finish 25 missions.
First aircraft to finish 50 missions.
First aircraft to finish 75 missions.
First group to finish 300 missions.
Most decorated group in the ETO including Congressional Medal of Honors.
303rd flew more sorties than any other group.
303rd had the only captain tail gunner. That was none other than Clark Gable.
This is but a few of the many accomplishments and firsts of the 303rd.

I must mention and we all do know this but, with out the help of the support people this never would have happened. Credit must be given to many and I hope I don't leave anybody out. So thank you to the medical personnel. Ah yes the nurses et al. Thanks to the ground crews. Those birds didnt fly without the tender loving care of the crew cheif and his men. They truly kept them flying. The administrative personnel doing what is always a necessary and frustrating job. The cooks making like the Waldorf Astoria with powdered eggs and spam, makes my mouth water even now. To all of you thanks for a thankless job very well done. This is your reunion too and your newsletter also. Let me hear from you. See you all at the next reunion.

Father Skoner can you dig up the other chaplains????? We would all like to see them come along for our next session wherever.

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

COMRA DS OF 303 B G
GENTLEMAN

LIFE HAS SOME BUMPS AND GRINDS AND MANY OTHER THINGS, BUT ONE THING ON THE PLUS SIDE IS THE APPRECIATION AND LOVE THAT ONE HAS FOR COMRA DS THAT HE HA S BEEN UNDER FIRE WITH.

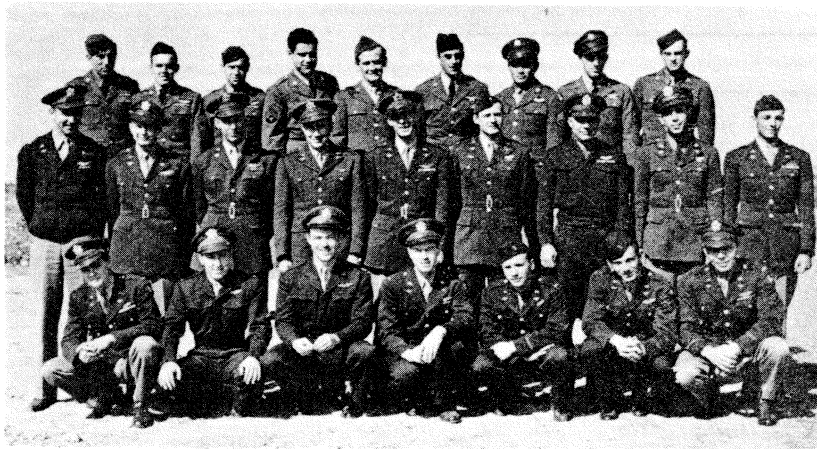
ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF MY LIFE WAS MEET-ALL OF YOU GUYS AGAIN LAST SUMMER IN FLORIDA. THAT MEETING WILL JUST BE A PRE-VIEW OF OUR NEXT GET-TOGETHER.

OUR 303 B.G. ASSOCIATION WAS DESIGNED NOT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL LO REEL ORGANIZATION, BUT SEEMS LIKE MANY OF THE GUYS ARE DOING AN AWFULLY LOT OF WORK, THAT HAS ENDED WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS. A TIP OF THE OLE HARRISON HAT TO ALL OF YOU HARD WORKING GUYS SO THAT ALL US LAZY GUYS CAN HAVE FUN TOO.

SINCERELY
DON HARRISON

I would like to suggest that the title of chairman to be changed to either commander or president. If any of you agree would you please make your desires known to the chairman of the board of directors. Maybe you have a different suggestion on this. Board of Directors is the place to make this change. Write to the chairman

Joe McLane, 5004 Aurora Dr, Kensington Md 20795
He'll be glad to hear from you and he is one to get the job done. Right Joe. Okay ??????



Picture on the left was taken in early summer of '43. I can only identify three. They are; second row 4th from the left is Capt Jacob James, 3rd row 2nd from the right is myself Al Martel and 6th from the right is Tony Sherg. All squadrons are represented and maybe one of you will see himself as he was in his younger and daring days. This was taken for presentation of Air Medals.

REUNION COMMITTEE

The reunion committee will soon begin working on when and where the next get together will be. I know they will welcome some suggestions from all of us. I few of my ideas; drinking mugs appropriately marked for those attending, decals with appropriate markings, wa ll placques, pen sets etc. Maybe a raffle for three or more nice prizes with the excess cash going to the treasury. Got to build up our cash reserves.

I ha ve two sources for the gifts and prizes. One is the Military Supply Co, P.O. Box 1315, Coral Gables Fla 33134 and Ben Silver Inc, 175 5th Ave, New York, N.Y. 10010. If you think you want to go this route let me know and I will forward the catalogs to you.

I also have a brochure on holding the meet in Tulsa I can also forward if you would like.

I know there are a lot more ideas on this subject so why not send them the chairman of this committee. This is a big job and is going to take a lot of time and planning so lets every-one jump right in the waters fine.

write to
Charles "Chuck" McClain, 693 Darcey Dr,
Winter Park, Fla 32789
Believe me he will welcome any and all ideas and suggestions.

Due to the cost factor and space I couldn't include the roster of members. Owen O'Neil will furnish anyone with one for a modest fee of \$1.00 to cover reproduction and mailing.

FROM THE DIARY OF ROBERT MOREMAN 359th
SQUADRON ON B-17G "QUEEN OF HEARTS"

- June 6 (D-Day) Target - Conde Sur
Nouveau, France. Missed target
Bill Eisenhart Pilot. Saw the
invasion fleet.
- June 10 Target Nantes France. Aborted due
bomb dropping out of shackle.
Jack Morgan's plane shot up bad.
- June 12 Target Cambray France. Airfield
hit. Bob Quiggle's first mission.
- June 15 Target Angers France. Railroad
bridge hit. No flak, no fighters.
Col Lewis E Lyle led.
- June 20 Target Hamburg Germany. Oil Refinery
Hit target hard, lots of escorts.
Clear day, flak intense and accurate
12 holes in queenie.
- June 21 Target, Berlin Germany. Train depot.
Missed target but hit town, lots of
cover. Tom Morningstar shot down.
Flak accurate.
- June 24 Target Bremen Germany. Flak intense.
Frank Destito was Bombardier.
- June 29 Target Leipzig Germany. Aircraft fac-
tory. Flak big and accurate. Main
wing spar shot out and turbocharger
shot up. Saw B24 blow up and B17 was
cut off in front of the tail. Crew
bailed out.
- July 11 Target Munich Germany, rail station.
25 wings bomb this target. Little
flak.
- August 15 Target Frankfort Area. Group hit
hard. Low group hit by 25 to 30
fighters. Lost 9 aircraft and
crews. Six from the 358th. Queen
returned with two wounded and one
dead. Bad time.
- Sept 19 Final mission to Osnabruck Germany.
This was 30th and Bill Eisenhart in-
formed us we were going home.

I want to thank Bob for furnishing me with the
diary. This was edited from his original write
up. This should bring back memories. Some of
the others that participated on these missions
are: Whitlock, McDavid, Arnold, Crozier,
Jenkins, Brabant, Hobbs, Crawford, Altman,
Eldridge, Gould and Hillary. These were all
pilots of the 359th.

Following is a letter from a dear friend of
the 303rd. This was dated 4/12/75

Dear Sir

I saw your picture in the papers the
other day with Big Thunderbird. How well
I remembered it again. I used to drive a
tractor and cut grass on the landing ground
at Molesworth, which is my home. I used to
know the name of every plane on the base.
I used to sweat them out every day. We always
knew when it was a Berlin mission by the type
bombs they put in them. I have still got my
Hell's Angels book of the 303rd and many pic-
tures also given me by some of the boys who used
to visit our pub every night. It was called
the Fox. A mile from the base, it also has a
write up on the plane. It is nice to know
someone is remembering those cold wartime
days we all went through over there and thank
god for the Americans who did so much for us
during the war. Hell's Angels was a wonderful
outfit and I hope all the boys who served
with it will always have a get together in
memory of it all. I will forward your picture
to my people in England as I'm sure they will
remember it

Closing up my letter to you

Yours truly

Mrs Susan Hamilton

Her Address is 6265 S Expy E 10
Jonesboro Ga. 30236

Wouldnt it be nice to make her an honorary
member of this organization?????

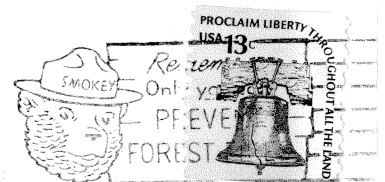
The above letter was sent to Bob Moreman after
his picture appeared in the Atlanta Journal.
Which proves that advertising will help us
find the missing members of the 303rd. Lets
everyone put an ad or send a story to you lo-
cal newspaper. An ad asking all former mem-
bers of the 303rd Bomb Gp or Hell's Angels
Group from WW 11 to contact you or any of the
committee members. The time to do it is now.
Lets shoot for a thousand at the next reunion.
Bet we can do it.

We have a good organization started and
off the ground. For my part I will try to
keep this publication newsworthy and interes-
ting. Send me any news items no matter how
small or big. I can use any bits and pieces.

Because of the cost factor and the amount
of news that can be generated without being
repetitious I feel this should come out twice
a year. In the spring and fall. If you feel
it should be more often I will gladly make it
up. On any pictures that you want published
make sure it is black and white. Color will
come out too dull to recognize. So here it
is gentlemen and see you later.



This photo was taken in the southern part of England on September 6 1943. This was the Winning Run piloted by Capt Jacob C James. Target was Stuttgart Germany. Front row l to r Sgts Tripp, Longo, Martel, Hamilton and Misiak. Top row l to r Capt James, Lts Ness, Sgt Wa tts, Lt Witt and Mr Frank Scherschel Life Mag Correspondent. Mr Scherschel flew on this mission as a war correspondent. This story appeared in Life Magazine in Oct 43. All were members of the 427 Sq. Any landing you walk away from is a good one. This plane belonged to Billy B. Southwort Jr who completed his mission and was later killed in an aircraft accident in New York,



Address corrections requested.