



483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

(1943) Ephrata, WA - MacDill Field, Tampa, FL - Sterparone, San Severo-Pisa, Italy (1945)

VOLUME 29 30

DECEMBER 2007

NUMBER 4

Cincinnati - Covington Reunion Bengal Territory Explored by 483rd Bomb Group

Compendium of articles by several writers

Thanks To All From The 2007 Chairman

John Dorsey's (817) 11 year old grandson, Nicholas Dorsey, created on his computer a map with detailed instructions for getting to Catholic Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral and Mother of God Church. John connected us with the Rev. Msgr. Allen J. Meier (a B-24 waist gunner in WW II).

Claude Jackson (816) directed presentation of white carnations during the act of remembrance. Ken Davis Jr. (FRD) and friend Trudy Craig, arranged for student Rabbi 2nd Lt. Marshal Klaven, to assist Chaplain Harold Leveridge (816) in our Memorial Service.

Our President, Stanton "Mike" Rickey (817) provided an amazing display in the hospitality room of B-17 parts retrieved from his crashed B-17, and shared that experience with us at Memory Night dinner.

Marty Upchurch drove from Indianapolis, Indiana to bring his mobile display of B-17 parts (I will send info later)

Helpers assisting my wife, Ruth, and daughter Pam (FRD) to serve drinks, snacks, and clean up, were Velma West (817), Art (815) and Wilma Fairbanks, and Art (840) and Leona Winkler. Sandee West Maeda (483rd Secretary & FRD) and Laurie West (FRD) came to my rescue Saturday. They assigned banquet night table seatings for groups and families to sit together. They also prepared lists of names at each numbered table, ran copies, and placed them on each table.

Jude Konerman (FRD) and her son Dave, arranged all the centerpieces for our banquet tables using red, white and blue roses and USA flags. Seymour (816) and Marilyn Sinuk provided recorded music for the memorial service. Seymour literally rebuilt our 483rd lighted insignia. Ken Davis, Jr. (FRD) located the unusual light bulbs in Northern Kentucky and donated them for our insignia could be illuminated at all Saturday meetings. These persons spent many hours volun-



483rd Reunion at the Shaker Village, Cincinnati, 2007

teering at our 2000 reunion in Northern Kentucky also.

Dennis West (FRD) and 483rd Newsletter editor really aided your reunion chairman throughout 2007 by putting up with my last minute input and still getting all of my requests published. Laurie West (FRD) assisted throughout the reunion with her computer knowledge, Ipod music, video and DVD projection, and overall reunion operating suggestions, sharing her experience of ten years in the reunion business.

Guido (Guy) Venier (815), membership secretary, provided quick responses to my many requests for information needed to plan and accomplish an enjoyable reunion. He also helped in the hospitality room and distributed registration packets when no AFR representative was available. George Stovall (840) shared past reunion chairman experiences and shipped our 483rd flags, banners, group insignia and hotel banner.

A huge thank you to Norma Flaherty (wife of Charles (816)), chair of Clipped Wings and everpresent photographer, recording memories of our reunion and sharing them with everyone.

Many of your reunion chairman's personal friends responded to the needs and success of our reunion. Nancy McCollum created the master for our memorial service program. She also obtained information for me that resulted in our visit to My Gal Sal B-17 reconstruction site, and our banquet night speaker and visual history of My Gal Sal, including plans to erect a memorial to the memory of all who served in the Air Force during WW II. A neighbor, Carol Chamberlin, printed out my E-mails during September and October 2007. A dear friend of over 50 years in Loveland, Ohio, Bill Stevens, who designed the layout of our souvenir program with the color picture of our banquet speaker, Mr. Bob Ready, and provided 150 copies gratis. A neighbor at Shell Point Retirement Community in Ft. Myers Fl. retrieved E mails and printed mailing labels that I could not do on Web

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TV.

A heartfelt thank you to our board members who were very understanding, patient, and provided intelligent suggestions relating to accomplishing the 2007 reunion.

To my family, wife Ruth, daughter Pam, and son Ken Jr. for their support and understanding for the past 18 months during planning and fruition of the actual reunion. At least 55-60 individual attendees expressed their enjoyment of their time and the activities they participated in during the reunion, which is what we had hoped for. I now realize, without willing volunteers, many things in this world would not happen.

Ken Davis, Reunion Chairman

If by chance I missed thanking any volunteer who helped, please forgive me and let me know and amends will be made in a subsequent newsletter. I sincerely thank all of you.

LADIES BRUNCH

Thanks to the 483rd from program speaker Patricia Faust: In the fall of 2006 I was asked if I would be the speaker for the 2007 Ladies Brunch of the 483rd Bomb Group Reunion. Shortly after confirming the speaking engagement, I remembered that I had an uncle that had been shot down and killed in World War II. I knew nothing more than that, and my curiosity was peaked as to what Bomb Group he was part of. So, like any true researcher these days, I googled his name on the Internet. To my surprise I found a whole website detailing the day that he and his crew were killed. His name was Anthony (Tony) Geiser - he was all of 22 years old at the time and he was a Captain and the pilot. The Bomb Group was the 323rd and the squadron was the 456th. The base was Earls Colne and the target was Schiphol. He actually borrowed the plane for the mission and the name of that plane was Jakes Jerks (Bugs Bunny). He was shot down over Bovenkirk on Nov. 3, 1943. He was originally buried in Europe but the remains of him and his crew were moved to Arlington National Cemetery in January, 1951. My Mom was quite young when this happened and didn't know any of the details of the event. I was able to tell her all about her very brave brother. In September, 2007, she was able to go to Washington DC and she went to Arlington and saw her brother's gravesite for the first time. None of this would have ever happened had I not been invited to speak at the 483rd Bomb Group Reunion. I had a great time meeting everyone but I will always be grateful for the opportunity the 483rd gave me to learn about my uncle. Then Pat went on to tell us about the history and use of aromatherapy, with time for discussion, and then we had the fun of passing around samples of oils and trying to guess what the scents were. In addition, the ladies were pleased to find colorful hand made dish cloths for the taking at each table. These were provided by Lydia Hanson, wife of member Joseph Hanson - they no longer are able to attend and wanted to have a part in the activities. Submitted by Ruth Davis

RIVER CRUISE



After a short comfortable bus ride we arrived for our night river cruise. After a short wait we boarded with another group for dining and sharing the boat

space. The groups were congenial and allowed the 483rd group to mix and mingle as we chose.

It was a great opportunity to have quality time with family and friends. Many of those attending were members of Friends of the 483rd. A well appointed and generous buffet was enjoyed by everyone.

It appeared that all of those present had a very great time of fellowship after a wonderful meal. The lights of the city and especially the bridges were a spectacular sight. A light coat was in order and it was very relaxing to hear the quietness of the river and the cool breeze was a relief from the oppressive heat of the previous several weeks. The entire trip was uneventful and no one even sprained an ankle.

It was a well planned and well executed evening. To return to the round hotel and sweet dreams for rest and recovery to enjoy the next day of fun with the 483rd.

Curtis Clark

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



A visit to the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati was a special experience for members of the 483rd Bomb Group. Since the

Ohio River separated the Northern states stand on freedom from slavery from the Southern states use of slavery, the riverbanks of Cincinnati were selected as the site for a museum to immortalize the Underground Railroad. Half of slave escapes receiving help occurred mainly in the areas and Ironton 60 miles east of Cincinnati. Many dedicated activist's known as conductors risked their lives to bring slaves across the river from Kentucky and Virginia to obtain freedom. As many as 2000 slaves escaped sometimes with as many as 12 at a time.

The Freedom Center was dedicated in the summer of 2004. It consists of 5 history galleries, an area for changing exhibits, a theater for performances and movies, an exhaustive book and gift shop, a café and an education and research area encouraging study for freedom around the globe.

Interesting exhibits included Bills of Lading for slave par-

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chases, auction lists of available slaves, sometimes family but more often for healthy males causing separation of families, slave living quarters, some with dirt floors, quota charts for required daily work goals (ex 100 lbs of picked cotton per day.) A two-story log cabin jail from Kentucky was re-assembled for the Center.

Numerous films were shown on small screens throughout the galleries. The theater featured a film about a young man who sorrowfully left his slave family to seek freedom. Interesting stories were told about the conductors and their methods of rescue. Signals were given by lanterns to show the area was safe. Rev. John Rankin supplied protection from 1828 to 1863. He told the story of the slave Eliza who escaped over the frozen ice and was recorded in Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe. The museum was truly a worthwhile experience and worth repeating.

Submitted by Art Winkler

LaComedia Dinner Theater

- "The Fantasticks"

By Carrie Davis

It was a rainy night on Thursday Oct. 18th when a small contingent of the 483rd Bombardment Group set off for their mission in Dayton. Their target: LaComedia Dinner Theater. Their mission: Attack the buffet, especially the Sweet Potato Soufflé. We arrived early to secure our position and plan our tactical course. Advanced scouting parties plotted the locations of restrooms and gift shops, just in case. They started us off with a salad covered in an amazing papaya chutney dressing to prepare us for the upcoming battle. As the lights dimmed, the curtain opened and the target became visible. We awaited word from the group leader, watching those who went before us attack the target. Then the word came, "you may go to the buffet" and we were off. Down the steps, through the line, pick up a plate, and ATTACK! The target was larger than anticipated. It would take all of us to complete the mission; no one man could do it alone. There was chicken, beef, cod, potatoes, pasta, vegetables, sweet potato soufflé, and if that didn't get you there were hot rolls. After the initial assault, we returned to our position to begin devouring the spoils. Some of us, feeling brave, took another pass at the target to ensure utter defeat of the enemy. With the mission a success, we were able to sit back, relax, and enjoy the show. "The Fantasticks" was an eight-man show, a story about a boy, a girl, two scheming fathers, a handsome swordsman, a human prop, and two "actors" for comic relief. It was an interesting use of set and human prop to change the scenes from one to the next, where at one point the human played a wall between the two houses. There was singing, dancing, conniving, love, and in the end everything works out, but not without a large hiccup in the middle, where pride and jealousy get in the way. I would tell you more, but it is classified. With our bellies full and our bodies relaxed, we boarded the bus to head for home. Little did we know our bus had been damaged during the fray. Strong winds on 75 South, pushed the

Fantasticks Cont'd

door slightly open, threatening to pull us from our victory. With quick thought, the bus driver pulled us into a McDonalds where he beat the door into submission. He stood valiantly over his triumph as the group cheered. Tired and weary, the small contingent of the 483rd Bombardment Group returned to the Radisson victorious with another mission under their belts.



President's Message

Our reunion chairman, Ken Davis, did a fine job in making our reunion in Covington, Kentucky successful. Thank you, Ken. Georgia and I particu-

larly enjoyed the SHAKER VILLAGE tour and DAYTON A.F. MUSEUM. My wife elected to take the day off; however, I enjoyed the NEWPORT AQUARIUM and the lunch that followed. The band played Lily Marlene upon request, which is a favorite of many others and mine. We also took the trip to the FREEDOM CENTER AND UNDERGROUND RAILROAD and the LACOMEDIA THEATRE. WE missed the DINNER CRUISE and understand that all who went had a wonderful time. Beyond this, our greatest joy was seeing our comrades again, catching up on events, and discussing experiences during World War II. Family members and friends of the 483rd added to our enjoyment. This brings up the fact that we are increasingly dependent on them as time goes by.

President, Mike Rickey's display of material collected by Ludwig Hauber from downed B 17's during the Memmingen Raid of July 18, 1944, along with maps depicting the crash site, made an interesting display in the day room. Mike needs a few more parts to rebuild his downed plane. Good luck Mike.

As my watch begins some problems confront the once mighty 483rd. Foremost among them is the advancing age and disabilities of our members. Ponce de Leon (1460-1521) landed on and named Florida on Easter Sunday 1513, searching in vain for the fountain of youth. He did not find it and passed away 8 years later at the young age of 61, our junior by twenty plus years.

The once mighty 483rd will remain alive as long as it lives in memory. Our display at Warner Robbins Museum as well as changes made in our constitution allowing family members and friends to have membership and hold office will help sustain our organization. Also, our past president, Mike Rickey, has made contact with several groups of the 5th Wing with regard to the feasibility of a joint meeting. They flew B 17's and bombed the same targets. Exchanging stories and experiences would be of interest.

Now let's look forward to St. Charles, Missouri in '08 when we again meet with friends and comrades.

Ellis F. Maxey

AFROTC Scholarships



One of the highlights of our Covington, KY Reunion was the awarding of scholarships for \$1000 each to two Air Force ROTC Cadets from the University of Cincinnati. At our Saturday night banquet,

President Mike Rickey first introduced their Detachment Commander and Professor of Air Science & Tactics, USAF Lt Colonel Shaun House, who earned his commission through Angelo State University in 1988 as a Distinguished Graduate, majoring in physics. He also holds a Master Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and is a graduate of the Air Command & Staff College. His military specialty is Acquisition, with experience in both space and aircraft systems. He has served at Kirtland AFB, NM; Wright-Patterson AFB, OH - as well as the National Reconnaissance Office in the Pentagon.

The Colonel stated that the Cadet recipients were chosen because of their outstanding performance as Cadet Leaders and introduced them. President Mike Rickey presented the cadets with a bound copy of our book "Heroes of the 483rd". Each thanked the 483rd for the monetary contribution and commented on the inspiration provided by the 483rd veterans of World War II. The scholarship recipients were:

Cadet Major Christopher Smith is a Senior majoring in Physics. He currently serves as Mission Support Squadron Commander and is responsible for Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities and special projects for the Cadet Wing. After graduation, Cadet Smith aspires to become a test pilot and eventually an astronaut.

Cadet Captain Kyle Pieper is a Junior majoring in Criminal Justice. He currently serves as C Flight Commander. In this role, he is responsible for preparing Sophomore Cadets to attend and successfully complete Field Training. Upon entering the Air Force, Kyle would like to be either a Security Forces Officer or C-17 pilot.

At the 483rd Board of Directors meeting, President Mike Rickey proposed that we increase the Scholarship amount from \$1000 to \$2000 in the future. No action was taken, but it will be given further consideration next year.

Bernard A Meyer

We lost a fine member this year, Bernard A Meyer. He had taken over the duties of Treasurer after Evan M "Jack" Edwards resigned in 1993. Bernie was Treasurer for 10 years and enjoyed his work. We kept in constant touch with each other going over the financial records of the Association. I enjoyed working with him. Our condolences go out to his wife, Dolores, and their families. He will be missed by many.

Guy Venier

Roster News

"Dear Comrades, Are we going to survive?"

The future looks bleak as I continue to monitor the funds which come in from the membership, or lack of it. Currently, we have 43 Inactive 2004's, 67 Inactive 2005's and 144 SI-06's which will become Inactive in 2008. This equates to a loss of revenue of 6,100 dollars. Also, in 2008, I will have 159 A-07's who will earn the Semi-Inactive 2007 label.

We have had some donations but not enough to make a difference. Remember the dues are 25.00 for yearly paying members or 100.00 for Life Membership which also includes a free CD "Heroes of the 483rd".

Now for the roster, all active members should have received their rosters. Please look over your entry and let me know if there are any things which should be changed such as, area codes, zip codes, telephone numbers, addresses etc. This message is being sent to 891 active members and Semi-inactive members.

Wishing all of you and your families a very Happy New Year."

Take care, Guy



Guy Venier



Past Presidents and the current President Stanton "Mike" Rickey who were in attendance at the 2007 Covington reunion. From left to right: Harry P. Millnamow, John P. Nobel, Benjamin H. Adams, Curtis Clark, Stanton "Mike" Rickey, Harold D. Leverage and George F. Stovall

2008 Reunion

The 2008 Reunion of the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association is to be held at the Holiday Inn Select, St. Peters/St. Charles (St. Louis Area)

4341 Veterans Memorial Parkway,

St. Peters, MO 63376

Phone (636) 928-1500

Dates: September 8 through September 14, 2008

Rates: \$79.00 + tax

See next column also - More next newsletter

More 483rd E-Mail Addresses

The following E-Mail Addresses are published to facilitate correspondence between 483rd members. These are in addition to those published in prior 2006 and 2007 newsletters. Changes or corrections are indicated by **. Members are encouraged to communicate by this means. If you have E-Mail, please contact President STANTON "MIKE" RICKEY at Rickeyroot@aol.com for inclusion or updating of this E-roster.

**Ben Adams.....benjaminadams38@gmail.com
 **Don Bentzen.....ddbentzen@bellsouth.net
 **Verne Cole.....vcole1@comcast.net
 **J. D. Coogler.....jddcoog@cebridge.net
 Franklin Hammerschmidt.....fkhllc@sbcglobal.net
 **Lawrence Landwehr.....king03@gmail.com
 Tom Lawton.....tflawton@aol.com
 Ellis Maxey.....winct@infionline.net

St. Charles, Missouri 2008



The St. Charles, Missouri Reunion is set for September 8-14 at the Holiday Inn Select, \$79.00 plus tax. Full registration and hotel information will be in the Spring Newsletter.

Here is a brief outline of what to expect - "A Family Friendly - See America" theme.

- St. Charles is the oldest city on the Missouri River.
- French Canadian fur trader Louis Blanchette founded the town (later to be known as St. Charles) as Les Petites Cotes (The Little Hills) in 1765 - before the American Revolution.
- Lewis and Clark embarked on the Missouri River from St. Charles in 1804 to explore the Northwest Territory.
- The City of St. Charles served as the first capital of the new state of Missouri from 1821 to 1826.

Places to go and see will be:

Daniel Boone and General Grant Farms in Missouri
 The St. Louis Arch

The Anheuser Bush Brewery and Clydesdale Farm
 An afternoon in historic St. Charles

A Friday night Riverboat Cruise with a sit-down dinner and Dixie Land Band

Plus in-hotel dinners for Memories Night, Comedy Dinner Theater and All-squadron Party.

All of the above at affordable prices. Also look for a La-dadies' Brunch surprise!

The first two who mail in their completed *SPRING registration form* and sign up for ALL tours and Saturday Night Banquet (except for conflicting times) will receive one complimentary room night.

PX Report

By George Stovall

The PX had a great 2007, thanks to the attendees at the Northern Kentucky reunion. Even though our total numbers taking in the reunion (150) was the lowest ever, the PX did the *best ever*, over \$3,000 in total sales. It was worth the effort we put in shipping 32 big boxes of PX items via FedEx to the Radisson Hotel. We will do the same for St. Charles. We immediately reorder so we will have a full inventory. We will always be on the lookout for new items. One we are looking at for 2008 is an attache case with the 483rd logo - great for a carry-on on the plane. The PX collects funds for Heroes of the 483rd CDs for the 483rd, at \$20 each, and we underwrite the S&H (last year we turned over to our treasurer \$660 in CD sales



Memories Books

The finished Memories Book for the 2008 Northern Kentucky Reunion is being sent to us to put captions (your names) on the photos. So, if we know you, your names will be on the pictures. The Memories Books are only \$22.00 - the 483rd signed up for 50 copies, so we pay the difference between 50 and the number ordered. The PX will take orders from those who want a Memories Book - due out in January.

To order a Memories Book, send this form to me: George Stovall, 825 NE Lawndale Pl., Corvallis, OR 97330

Name: _____
 Address: _____

HEROES CD TO LIFE MEMBERS



When someone signs up as a Life Member and pays the \$100 Life-time Dues they will automatically receive a *Free Copy of the Heroes of the 483rd Compact Disk*. This is the same CD that sells in our PX for \$20. It contains the entire works of the *Heroes of the 483rd* book, and can be read just like the book on your computer screen, but also has the added feature of being fully searchable by keyword. Just enter the name of an individual, place or target and your monitor will display the appropriate page. If you don't have a computer, the CD makes an excellent gift

**Minutes of the
General Business Meeting
483RD Bomb Group (H)
29TH Annual Reunion
9:00 AM -11:00 AM
Saturday, 20 Oct 2007
Covington, Kentucky 2007**

Sandee West Maeda, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Rickey at 9:12 AM. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Chaplain Harold Leveridge gave the Invocation. President Rickey gave his opening remarks welcoming everyone.

It was moved by Ben Adams and seconded by John Nobel to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and that the minutes be approved as previously published in the newsletter. Motion approved and Minutes accepted.

President Rickey stated that Dick Roberts, liaison officer from Warner Robins Air Museum, advised by phone call that he was not able to attend the meeting. President Rickey read correspondence inviting him or another representative to address the meeting on the status of our 483rd display. Dick is a Friend and brother of a deceased 483rd member. Rickey also read correspondence from Marty Upchurch who is not a member, but was invited to display pieces at Covington from a former 483rd B-17 shot down in Germany.

President Rickey invited all past presidents (Ben Adams, Curtis Clark, Harold Leveridge, Harry Millnamow, John Nobel and George Stovall) to come to the front for a picture.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP (GUY VENIER) – of the Members, 9 are honorary, 102 are widows, 359 are life, 162 are active, 120 semi-inactive, 446 are inactive and 0 are new finds, for a total of 1,198; of the Friends, 0 are honorary, 116 are life, 25 are active, 26 are semi-inactive and 39 are inactive, for a total of 206; of the deceased members 220 were killed in action, and 2,748 are postwar for a total of 2,969. There are no new friends. Total roster of members is 4,373.

TREASURER (LEON WALDMAN) – The organization has a total of \$78,914 in assets as of 1 OCT 2007 and is distributed as follows: \$7,786 in Vanguard Money Market Fund, \$59,850 in Vanguard Mutual Funds, \$1,612 in Bank of America Checking Account, \$4,010 in membership dues, \$793 in PX account, \$4,128 in PX inventory and \$645 in Clipped Wings account.

CLIPPED WINGS (NORMA FLAHERTY) – There are 12 correspondents and approximately 4 to 5,000 letters were mailed. Currently 50 recipients are being served and over the course of the year the roster ranges from 45 to 54

Clipped Wing Members. There was a total income from the Treasury of \$1,050, a total of \$1,055 in expenses, a balance forward of \$650.36 for a balance as of 1 OCT 2007 of \$645.18.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR (DENNIS WEST) – Dennis gave his thanks to everyone on the Board for their assistance during his first year as newsletter editor. He also asked for stories from the "distaff" side, especially the gals home life experiences while waiting for the guys to come home from the war.

PX (GEORGE STOVALL) – There were 78 orders at an average of \$37.56 per order, 33 Heroes CD's were sold at \$20 per cd. The PX presently has \$5,011 in it's treasury.

PUBLICITY AND 2008 REUNION CHAIR (GEORGE STOVALL) – Next reunion will be in St. Charles, MO in early September. The reunion will be family friendly and some of the places that will be visited and/or activities are: General Grant's Farm (owned by Anheuser family), Daniel Boone's farm, St. Louis Arch, Anheuser Busch, river boat ride with Dixie Land Band and historic tour of St. Charles. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn by the airport. He plans to do a lot of corresponding to promote the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS - The amendments are as follows: (1) Friends Members absolutely and irrevocably will be the same as Veteran Members; (2) If member is inactive for 5 years, that member will no longer receive a newsletter but will be kept on the roster. It was moved by Ken Davis and Seconded by Ben Lambert to vote on amendments and they were passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

50/50 DRAWING – Ken Davis stated there would be a 50/50 drawing, tickets were \$1 apiece or 6 for \$5. Half of the money will be for ROTC Scholarship Fund.

NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS - The nominating committee put forth the following slate of officers: President-Ellis Maxey, President Elect – Jim Ashley, Membership – Guy Venier, Treasurer – Leon Waldman, Newsletter – Dennis West. John Nobel moved and Curtis Clark seconded that nominations be closed. The slate of officers were approved unanimously.

JOINT REUNIONS – President Rickey read emails that he sent and received from other groups in the 5th Bomb Wing (that flew B-17's) regarding the possibility of having joint reunions in the future. During discussion it was decided that the earliest year would be 2009 and that the incoming President, Ellis Maxey, should continue to pursue the idea.

SELECTION OF 2009 REUNION SITE: There was a great deal of discussion from the floor regarding the pros and cons for three locations which were: (1) Kansas City, Kansas, (2) Rapid City, South Dakota and (3) Branson, Missouri. There was also discussion regarding whether to have the reunion in September or October. A show of hands

was taken and the result was: Branson 33, Rapid City 19 and Kansas City 2. The 2009 Reunion will be in Branson, Missouri. John Nobel said he would be happy to be the chair if he would have some help. Laurie West offered to assist. The general feeling was that it is better to have the Reunions in late September to Mid-October rather than early September although a vote was not taken. It was moved by Ken Davis and seconded by John Nobel that there be some subsidizing of events at the next Reunion. The motion was amended by Dennis West that there be approval of the Board of Directors of what and how much. The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sande West Maeda

OLD MAN MOSE CRASH SITE



Marty Upchurch came from Indianapolis, IN came to our Covington, KY reunion and displayed parts salvaged from crash site of *Old Man Mose*, which had been transferred to the 99th Bomb Group in March 1944. It had been flown by his uncle, and was later carefully packaged as a traveling display that Marty has taken to several B-17 Association reunions. This aircraft was flown overseas by Maurice "Mo" Mott of the 817th Sqdn. When we first arrived in Italy all of the 483rd brand new B-17G's were given to the 99th and we got their old castoff war-weary "F" Models.



Former POW's In Attendance at the 2007 Reunion

Left to Right:
Robert Fleshman
James Ashley
Gerald Smith
Claude Jackson
Lawrence Landwehr

Mini-Reunion In Denver

Sunday, October 28, 2007
Denver CO:

Fred & Fay Hick's had a lunch at their home for the local 483rd BGA members on Saturday as a mini reunion. Bob & Millie Fleshman who did attend the reunion in Covington, were there to tell about the Covington reunion. In attendance were Fred & Fay Hick's, Tobe & Leola McClellan, Bob & Millie Fleshman, Guy & Vi Grose, Bill Gibson & Marie Glenn, George Swerer, & Bob Bailey. We had a very nice lunch and a lot of conversation. The sites for the next two reunions were discussed. We were sorry that Sam & Ann Whitmer and Don & Myrtle Kaufman could not make it. Our thanks to the Hick's for their consideration. - Bob Bailey

BUCHENBERG TOURISTS

The village of Buchenberg, Bavaria, Germany has a Memorial Wall dedicated to the memory of German and American flyers shot down on 18 July 1944 during our airstrike against Memmingen Airdrome. The air battle that ensued when over 200 Luftwaffe fighters attacked the 483rd bomber stream resulted in our loss of 14 B-17s. Five of our aircraft were shot down in the vicinity of Buchenberg (about 30 miles west of the Initial Point (IP) of Kempten, where we started the bomb run). The remains of 29 American airmen from these 5 planes were buried by the Germans in the Buchenberg Church graveyard, and exhumed in 1946 for reburial in U. S. National Cemeteries.

In 1998 a Memorial Plaque was dedicated with the names of our KIA comrades, and Charley Erickson attended the dedication ceremony to represent us. He was the sole survivor of the Eugene Jackson Crew and the names of 9 of his buddies are on the plaque. The 483rd Association cooperated with German research historians to establish the memorial. One was Gerhard Ott, who attended our 1999 reunion in Oklahoma City. Another was Willi Heuberger, who has published a book entitled *Luftkampf Über Buchenberg (Air Battle Over Buchenberg)*, which tells the story from the perspectives of both sides.



L to R: Willi, Chris, Abbey, & Ludwig

Last month, Abbey and Chris Palte toured Europe and included a visit to Buchenberg in their itinerary. Abbey is the granddaughter of Fred Hicks, Navigator on the Mike Rickey Crew, which had 5 KIA in

scribed on the plaque. They were met in Munich by Ludwig Hauber, the archaeologist who has located crash sites from the Memmingen Raid and collected artifact parts. Ludwig introduced them to Ott and Heuberger and photographed them standing in front of the Memorial. He also took them to the Rickey crash site in a wooded area, where he used his metal detector to unearth some interesting souvenirs.

During "Memories Night" at our Covington, KY reunion we viewed a DVD video of Abbey and Chris touring the Buchenberg area. Ludwig also took them to the Rickey Crash site crash site in a wooded area, where he used his metal detector to unearth some additional souvenirs to take back to Grandpa Fred.



PX PRICE LIST

B-17 Ceramic Mugs, 12 oz. wraparound B-17	\$ 15.00
B-17G Plane Spotter Mugs with stats & B-17 silhouette	\$ 8.00
Flying Fortress & RAF Lancaster gliders, 17" Styrofoam	\$ 1.00
USA Cotton Bucket Hats, adult size	\$ 3.00
Stars & Stripes Cotton Bandanas, 21"x21"	\$ 2.00
Leis, Red, White & Blue, 34", soft plastic	\$ 1.00
Balloons, 11", 6 assorted colors, imprinted 483 rd Bomb Group B-17 Flying Fortress Italy 1944-45 - order them all!	\$.50
Canvas Tote Bag with 483 rd logo	\$ 5.00
Flashlight with 483 rd logo, powerful LED 12-bulb light, batteries & wrist strap included, 5" long	\$ 10.00
483 rd Bumper Sticker	\$ 3.00
Mouse Pad with Calculator, 483 rd logo in center	\$ 10.00
Mouse Pad with Metric Conversion Table, 483 rd logo in center	\$ 6.00
Tee Shirt, white, B-17 on front, sizes S through XXL	\$ 10.00
Sweatshirt, 483 rd , 15 th Air Force, Italy 1944-45 on front, white, light or dark gray, red or blue, sizes S through XXL	\$ 20.00
Jacket, blue, 483 rd logo on left front, B-17 on back, sizes S-XXL	\$ 50.00
Shirt, white knit, B-17 and 15 th Air Force above pocket, sizes S-XXL	\$ 20.00
Cap, B-17 15 th Air Force, Italy 1944-45 on front, adjustable	\$ 5.00
Wall Clock, 483 rd logo in center - black, gold or silver trim	\$ 12.00
Wristwatch, 483 rd logo on face, men's or ladies'	\$ 15.00
Portfolio, 483 rd logo on cover, calculator and calendar inside	\$ 10.00
483 rd License Plate Holder, white with blue letters	\$ 2.00
483 rd License Plate, plastic, blue with white letters	\$ 5.00
<u>PINS:</u>	
Wings, Navigator,	large \$5.00, small \$4.00
Wings, Bombardier,	large \$5.00, small \$4.00
Wings, Pilot,	large \$5.00, small \$4.00
Wings, Gunner,	large \$5.00, small \$4.00
Wings, 15 th Air Force in middle,	\$5.00
15 th Air Force Pin,	\$5.00
Unit Citation, large	\$5.00, small \$4.00
B-17 Hat Pin, large	\$5.00, small \$4.00
U. S. Flag Pin, large,	\$5.00
U. S. A. Map & Statue of Liberty Pin,	\$3.00
<u>PATCHES:</u>	
15 th Air Force Shoulder Patch	\$ 4.00
U. S. Flag Shoulder Patch, Right or Left	\$ 4.00
<u>MEDALS:</u>	
Victory Medal w/bar and bar holder	\$ 16.00
Good Conduct Medal w/bar and bar holder	\$16.00
Heroes Book on CD (includes S&H)	\$20.00

PX Order Form

Prices *DO NOT* include shipping and handling, unless otherwise noted

Item(s) (be sure to indicate size when applicable)

Price

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_____	_____

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Please make check(s) payable to: 483rd Bomb Group and send with order to: George Stovall, 825 NE Lawndale Pl., Corvallis, OR 97330 Phone: 541-758-0009 - Email: gstovall@peak.org

Publicity Report

By George Stovall

As you Old Timers and now New Timers know, the annual 483rd Bomb Group Association Reunion is the year's most significant single event for the Group - the Newsletter is by far the most important single item which everyone gets, if they are current paid-up members. The Newsletter keeps us all informed and comes right to your doorstep, via the U. S. Mail. For the annual reunion, a lot of planning and detailed work goes into the project. The area or city we select at the Business Meeting is somewhat important, except repeat sites are not as good a draw as new places - but the most important to all of us is that we have a reunion at all. Next year, our reunion is at St. Charles, Missouri, next to St. Louis. Then, in 2009, we visit Branson - both will be sites we all look forward to. As Reunion Site Chair, I wish to engage the members' regional and city preferences of as many of our members as possible. Starting sometime in 2008, I will have ready a kind of "Pew" research survey that every member can participate in. It will be done by direct mail, using the current membership roster - start thinking, looking ahead to 2010.



Taps

Deceased Members not previously Noted in Newsletters

Name	Squadron	Date
Jordan, Arthur	815	7/31/2007
Harcus, Robert P	840	7/28/2007
Meyer, Bernard	840	10/18/2007
Miller, Henry J	840	03/00/07
Miller, James E	817	8/26/2007
Myrick, Willrd	HQ	7/31/2007
Putnam, Robert M	HQ	7/5/2007
Seidel, Henry A	840	5/6/1995
Storm, Jack S	817	7/8/2007
Weekel, William J	815	8/5/2007

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Ellis Maxey
201 Hilton Terrace
Newport News, VA 23601
757-595-2686
winet@infonline.net

PRESIDENT-ELECT

James Ashley
312 Marshall St.
Hampton, VA 23669
757-723-7847
E-Mail:
riverhouse4@verizon.net

MEMBERSHIP

SECRETARY
Guido "Guy" Venier
13185 Picadilly Drive...
Sterling Heights, MI 48312
586-268-3126
E-mail: guy483rd@comcast.net

TREASURER

Leon Waldman
14630 Dickens ST. #108
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-3610
818-905-9466

SECRETARY

Sandee West Maeda
1050 E. 5th Ave.
Escondido CA 92025
760-747-6615
E-mail: lvt2u@msn.com

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

George Stovall
825 NE Lawnsdale Pl.
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-758-0009
E-mail: gstovall@peak.org

REUNION CHAIRMAN

George Stovall
825 NE Lawnsdale Pl.
Corvallis, OR 97330
541-758-0009

CHAPLAIN

Harold D. Leveridge, DD
14901 N. Pennsylvania, #355
Oklahoma City, OK 73134
405-752-7312
E-mail: harold483@att.com

LEGAL COUNSEL

M.L. "Bob" Hottman
20161 Sherri Ln
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
515-955-3428
E-mail:
mhottman@frontiernet.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Stanton "Mike" Rickey
5518 E. Lindstrom Ln. Unit 46
Mesa, AZ 85215-1946
480-832-3567
E-Mail: rickeyroot@aol.com

WEB SITE: www.483rd.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dennis West
2447 Hooker St.
Denver, Colorado 80211
303-332-1625
E-mail: ironman8x@yahoo.com

PAST PRESIDENTS

Phillip A. Leutke 1980
William A. Haskins (Deceased) 1981
James V. Reardon (Deceased) 1982-1983
Lynn M. Borders (Deceased) 1984
Joseph W. Gawthrop (Deceased) 1984
M.L. "Bob" Hottman 1985
Harry K. Keller (Deceased) 1986
Donald R. Speegle (Deceased) 1987
James "Russ" Heflin 1988
Evan M. "Jack" Edwards (Deceased) 1989
Ralph H. Simpson 1990
Harry P. Millnamow 1991
William P. Dunn (Deceased) 1992
Edward T. Cotton (Deceased) 1993
Harry D. Whye 1994
Ray H. Whitaker 1995
Harold D. Leveridge, D.D. 1996
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Fredric A. Hicks 2005
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483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association
Dennis West, Newsletter Editor
2447 Hooker St.
Denver, CO 80211



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