



483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

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NUMBER 1

ST. CHARLES IN OUR SIGHTS Gateway To the West to be Explored by 483rd Bomb Group



St. Charles, MO

Lewis & Clark

Almost 200 years ago two brave men launched one of the most amazing adventures of all time. President Thomas Jefferson asked Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to find a route to the Pacific coast. You may know them as the famous Lewis & Clark.

In 1804, they left from Saint Charles to explore new lands from Saint Charles to the Pacific Ocean. During their journey, Lewis and Clark came face-to-face with many wild animals, discovered unknown plants and encountered many Indian cultures. The Lewis and Clark Museum is a great place to learn more about the path Lewis and Clark took. The trading post is filled with the unusual Indian artwork they found during their travels.

Daniel Boone

Daniel Boone and his family built a homestead in nearby Defiance. His Boone's Lick Road later became the eastern



starting-point of the Santa Fe Trail and the Oregon Trail. Daniel Boone was a true frontiersman. He was known for his fairness and honesty in fur trading and became very good at trading with Indians. Boone and his wife, Rebecca, had 11 children, 70 grandchildren and more than 250 great-grandchildren. People from Daniel's home town used to say "when you shook a bush, out popped a Boone."

Boone is the topic of many legends in Saint Charles. For example, Daniel Boone had a rifle that was known as the "Tick-licker" because Boone claimed he could shoot a tick off the rump of an animal and not hurt the animal. No one ever argued his boast because he was known for his awesome shooting. Daniel Boone is also said to have kept a handmade cherry-wood coffin underneath his bed and every now and then he would climb into it to see if he still fit. To see how the Boone family lived, visit the house which Boone and his son Nathan built in 1799.

First State Capitol

St. Charles was Missouri's first state capitol between 1821 and 1826, while a permanent capitol city was in the planning and development stages in Jefferson City. The Federal-style brick complex was restored between 1961 and 1971, and features 11 rooms that take you back to the time when Missouri joined the Union.

Main Street

Main Street has long been the hub of commercial activity for St. Charles. The 13-block stretch of downtown St. Charles runs from Boone's Lick Road to Clark, and boasts a bevy of shops, restaurants and businesses.

Come stroll the sidewalks that line real brick streets, have a glass of wine and shop a wide variety of stores for crafts and antiques.

St. Louis, MO

Prior to the arrival of French explorers in 1673 the area that would become St. Louis was a major center of the Mississippian mound builders. The presence of numerous mounds, now almost all destroyed, earned the later city the nickname of "Mound City". European exploration of the area had begun nearly a century before the city was founded. Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette, both French, traveled through the Mississippi River valley in 1673, and five years later, La Salle claimed the entire valley for France. He called it "Louisiana" after King Louis XIV; the French also called their region "Illinois Country." In 1699, a settlement was established across the river from what is now St. Louis, at Cahokia.

The city is named for King Louis IX of France. St. Louis is famous for its multiple French and German influences as well as having a Victorian past. Two events at the beginning of the 20th century, the 1904 World's Fair and 1904 Olympic Games (the first ever held in the United States) are of particular pride to St. Louisans.

The city has many nicknames, the most popular being "Gateway City", as it is seen as the Eastern/Western US dividing mark. St. Louis is also called "Gateway to the West" on behalf the many people who migrated west through St. Louis via the Missouri River (first leg of the Oregon Trail) and other wagon trails. St. Louis was acquired from France by the United States under President Thomas Jefferson in 1803, as part of the Louisiana Purchase. The transfer of power from Spain was made official in a ceremony called "Three Flags Day." On March 8, 1804, the Spanish flag was lowered and the French one raised. On March 10, the French flag was replaced by the United States flag. French continued, along with English, to be one of the major spoken and written languages in St. Louis until the 1820s.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition left the St. Louis area in May 1804, reached the Pacific Ocean in the summer of 1805, and returned on 23 September 1806. Both Lewis and Clark lived in St. Louis after the expedition. Many other explorers, settlers, and trappers would later take a similar route to the West. Missouri became a state in 1821.



President's Message

The St. Charles reunion is only six months away. It seems like only yesterday we were greeting and renewing our friendships during the Covington meeting. We hope the attendance will

be good. this is the time to enjoy the friendships lasting sixty plus years. for all who are able, we urge you to attend.

George Stovall and John Nobel are planning a great reunion. Due to declining attendance contacts have been made with other bomb groups with regard to joint meetings. John Campbell contacted the 99th BG; and Mike Rickey has been in on-going contact with the 32nd Squadron of the 301st BG, 2nd BG, and the 463rd BG. Nothing to report.

A letter has been sent requesting the reunion chairman to contact our chairman for a possible joint meeting in 2009 at Branson, MO.

Keep well and plan to attend the St. Charles reunion.

Ellis F. Maxey, President

Roster News

Dear Members:

I have received several donations since my article in the last newsletter. I want to thank these members for their effort to keep our Association from extinction.

For those members who have computers, I would like them to go to our web site, "www.483rd.com" and read the comments that are in the archives. I have been doing this for quite some time and have found a lot of the members who are listed in our roster. Look for entries which refer to a member of the 483rd from the relative who entered this information.

Check to see if we have the member listed in the roster, both in the front section and the rear section. If we have, there is no need to try and contact the individual. If we don't, try to contact the person with the e-mail which was provided and see if the person that was referred to is still alive or deceased. If he is, find out his name. If he is not listed in the roster, you would have found a "lost soul".

If the name of the lost soul is not in the first or last part of the roster, he can be consider a new found member and should be reported to me so I can enter him in our membership roles. Any questions, please contact me. guy483rd@comcast.net

Thank you and take care.

Guy



Guy Venter

ST. CHARLES REUNION ACTIVITIES



short walking tour. After visiting the farm, we stop at the Montelle Winery and the Klondike Café, with breathtaking views from 400 feet above the Missouri River. Your tour fee includes a \$10 credit voucher, which can be used toward purchases at the café, winery or gift shop.



get lost - then, get back on the bus at the time your bus coordinator has set for your bus, and tentatively set to go visit Grant's Farm.



offers a brief history into the travels of Lewis & Clark, the driving forces causing westward settlement and its affects on the Native Americans. The Museum of Westward Expansion preserves some of the rarest artifacts from the days of Lewis and Clark. Through these exciting exhibits, you can explore the world of the American Indians and the 19th century pioneers who helped shape the history of the American West.



About Grant's Farm: This 281-acre farm is operated by Anheuser Busch, Inc., and takes its name from the 18th President, U. S. Grant, who founded and farmed a portion of these 281 acres in the 1850s.



About Forest Park: Forest Park is a 3,171-acre park in St. Louis. It contains the Missouri History Museum - a great place to look, see and eat at Meriweather's Restaurant on the top floor. The Museum contains the Lingbergh Gallery, the Jefferson Gallery, the Benjamin Franklin Gallery, and many other ex-

Activities Cont'd

hibits and galleries. We are alternating trips to Grant's Farm and Forest Park.



Thursday, September 11th Tour: The Anheuser Busch Brewery. We will tour the brewery starting at 12:00 noon, with a full busload, followed by the second group at 12:45 PM, and maybe a third, if time permits. After each tour, we will head for . . .

Grant's Farm. *The tentative term is used here because reservations for Grant's Farm can't be made for 2008 until after April 19th.* The approximately one-hour brewery tour includes a visit to the Clydesdale Stables and concludes in the Hospitality Room for complimentary samples of their products or soft drinks and snacks.



No trip to St. Louis is complete without a visit to the Gateway Arch - the stunning stainless steel structure that rises 630 feet high from the banks of the Mississippi, making it our nation's tallest monument.

More than an engineering marvel, the arch has come to represent the spirit of the City of St. Louis, the Gateway to The West. Each year, millions of visitors flock to the Arch to make the journey to the top. Also, for your information, the St. Louis Gateway Arch takes 40 at a time, and the Anheuser Busch Brewery takes 60 at a time. Buses hold 47 or 57. You can see the scheduling juggling involved! Headache Time!!!



son on the tour will have a full admission ticket to the Lewis and Clark famous boathouse replica in the museum. Bus leaves for hotel at 4:00 PM.



Riverboat Dinner Cruise: We have reservations for 100 (at the present time). This dinner cruise is a sit-down dinner, Dixie Land band and entertainment, and at an affordable price. The Mississippi River has long beckoned adventurers to ride its mighty currents. Here you can board a paddle wheeler, the Tom Sawyer or the Becky Thatcher and take a step back in time to the era of Mark Twain. The slow-moving vessels offer perfect vantage points for sightseeing, while the riverboat captain narrates the tour and points out attractions and historic sights as they steam past.

In-hotel Dinners

Tuesday Night Reception:

Don't miss this scrumptious hors d'oeuvre party 1-½ hour "happy hour" - savory vegetable, fruit and cheese display, and six hot hors d'oeuvres, plus tea and coffee.

Wednesday - Memories Night:

Happy Hour is followed by a sit-down dinner of your choice, followed by an open mike for those who have something to tell. If you want to participate, contact George or Ellis.

Thursday Night - Two separate dinners:

(a) The Holiday Inn Comedy/Mystery Dinner Theater shows are based around a four-course dinner, with audience participation that you will enjoy.

(b) The annual 840th Squadron hosted All Squadron Party:

This is a sit-down dinner with two menu choices, followed by a fun time of Trivia Pursuit, with great prizes worth the price of admission. Be prepared on local history and geography.

Air Report of long ago



Charlie Brown was a B-17 Flying Fortress pilot with the 379th Bomber Group at Kimbolton, England. His B-17 was called 'Ye Old Pub' and was in a terrible state, having been hit by flak and fighters. The compass was damaged and they were flying deeper over enemy territory instead of heading home to Kimbolton.

After flying over an enemy airfield, a German pilot named Franz Steigler was ordered to take off and shoot down the B-17. When he got near the B-17, he could not believe his eyes. In his words, he 'had never seen a plane in such a bad state'. The tail and rear section was severely damaged, and the tail gunner wounded. The top gunner was all over the top of the fuselage. The nose was smashed and there were holes everywhere.

Despite having ammunition, Franz flew to the side of the B-

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.



17 and looked at Charlie Brown, the pilot. Brown was scared and struggling to control his damaged and blood-stained plane.

Aware that they had no idea where they were going, Franz waved at Charlie to turn 180 degrees. Franz escorted and guided the stricken plane to, and slightly over, the North Sea towards England. He then saluted Charlie Brown and turned away, back to Europe.

When Franz landed he told the CO that the plane had been shot down over the sea, and never told the truth to anybody. Charlie Brown and the remains of his crew told all at their briefing, but were ordered never to talk about it.

More than 40 years later, Charlie Brown wanted to find the Luftwaffe pilot who saved the crew. After years of research, Franz was found. He had never talked about the incident, not even at post-war reunions.

They met in the USA at a 379th Bomber Group reunion, together with 25 people who are alive now - all because Franz never fired his guns that day. Research shows that Charlie Brown lived in Seattle and Franz Steigler had moved to Vancouver, BC after the war. When they finally met, they discovered they had lived less than 200 miles apart for the past 50 years.

More 483rd E-Mail Addresses

The following is a listing of E-mail addresses in addition to those published in our earlier newsletters. Changes or corrections are indicated by **. Members are encouraged to communicate by this means. If you have E-Mail, please contact Past President Stanton "Mike" Rickey at Rickeyroot@aol.com for inclusion or updating of this roster.

William Gibson.....gwildwillie@aol.com
Dorothy Hamilton.....crdwh@sbcglobal.net
**Steve Krelie.....krelie@att.net
**Jack Nobel.....nobel3@localnet.com

Info Needed

I would like to know if any of the membership has a listing of B-17s of the 816th Sq. I was a (Ground)Crew Chief of one of the B-17's shot down during the Memmingen Airdrome Raid. The name I had painted on the nose of my B-17 was "Little One" and the last three digits on the tail was 488. I would appreciate any information anyone can give me. Thank you and looking forward to your reply.

John Rinaldi
johnrinaldi@cox.net

Ed Note: At the last reunion in Covington while visiting the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson, there was a book with nose art of B-17's of WWII. If you can locate the book, you may be able to find some information from that source as well.

What A Birthday Present



My grandfather, Ben Vaughan was a member of the 483rd Bombardment Group, in the 816th squadron. For my father's 60th birthday, my brother and I bought him his first tattoo last year. In order to memorialize my grandfather, my dad decided to get the 816th squadron logo for his tattoo. I've included a picture in this email. Hope you all enjoy!

Alison Birken



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need Volunteers to work in the PX, Hospitality Room and as Bus Coordinators.

I'd like to volunteer

NAME

Send this form with your reservations or by itself to: George Stovall, 825 NE Lawnsdale Pl., Corvallis, OR 97330. Phone: 541-758-0009. You can also let us know by sending an e-mail to: gstovall@peak.org

Taps

Deceased Members not previously Noted in Newsletters

Name	Squadron	Date
Appleford, Burton G	817	01-17-08
DeBow, Duane L	815	01-28-08
DeMatteo, Alfred A	817	09-04-07
Fuller, Marvin D	815	12-12-07
Jackson, Claude G. Jr	816	02-11-08
Kuczmarski, Vincent A	817	08-22-07
Meyers, Owen L	840	08-14-07
Mitchell, Robert W	815	02-11-08
Sanchelli, Charles R	816	07-11-07
Serbatic, John	840	12-00-07
Taylor, Kenneth M	816	12-23-07
Tumlinson, Fred J	817	11-02-06

HEROES CD TO LIFE MEMBERS



When someone signs up as a Life Member and pays the \$100 Lifetime 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 that a grandchild will treasure.

483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP REUNION SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 8 - 14, 2008

HOLIDAY INN SELECT
ST. PETERS/ST. CHARLES, MISSOURI

Monday, September 8

12:00pm - 5:00pm Early Bird Registration (check bulletin board)

For an evening of camaraderie for early arrivals, you are invited to attend a beverage and snack get-together, hosted by George and Marion in their suite. Let us know how many chairs we will need.

Tuesday, September 9

6:00 am - 6:00pm Hospitality Room and PX open, as posted

10:30am Load buses

11:00am Start tour - 1-½ hours Early Bird

Tour to Daniel Boone's historic farm; after tour, head for Montelle Winery and Klondike Café, all overlooking the Missouri River for a relaxing afternoon. Lunch and beverage on your own with \$10 credit voucher, which can be used for lunch, at the winery, or in the gift shop.

Welcoming Reception

The Tuesday evening reception is an informal affair beginning with a "happy hour", any important announcements, messages, or whatever, followed by a meal of delicious hors d'oeuvres (probably all you can eat; if not, the hotel restaurant is close by).

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Cash bar

7:00 pm - hors d'oeuvres followed by announcements

Wednesday, September 10 - in hotel meetings

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

(1) Clipped Wings group

(2) MIA/POW Evadees group

(3) Friends of the 483rd meeting

Anheuser Busch Brewery Tour - followed by trip to Grant's Farm or Forest Park:

(1) 1st bus of 55 loads at 10:30 am

(2) 2nd bus of 55 loads at 11:15 am

(3) 3rd bus of 55 loads at 12:00 pm (if necessary, but no Grant's Farm Tour - See Thursday's schedule)

Memories Night

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Cash bar

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Dinner

8:00 pm - on - Open Mike

Thursday, September 11

8:00 am - 12:00 pm - Board of Directors Meeting

Tour - St. Louis Arch and Museum of Western Expansion. 10:30 am - load Bus No. 1 - 40 passengers

10:45 am - load Bus No. 2 - 40 passengers

11:00 am - load Bus No. 3 - 40 passengers

11:15 am - load Bus No. 4 - 40 passengers (if necessary)

Arrival at the St. Louis Arch:

Each group of 40 will be separated by 10 minute intervals. After the Arch, you can visit the Museum of Western Expansion before your bus leaves for Grant's Farm or Forest Park.

Thursday Evening:

5:30 pm to 10:30 pm - Comedy/Mystery Dinner Theater

5:30 - on - 840th hosted All Squadron Party

Friday, September 12

9:00 am - 12:00 pm - Ladies' Brunch

9:00 am - 11:00 pm - Squadron Meetings and Pictures

9:00 am - 11:00 pm - Squadron Meetings and Pictures

12:30 pm - load buses for St. Charles Historic District

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm - tour St. Charles Historic District

5:30 pm - load buses for Riverboat Cruise

7:00 pm - get on the boat

7:30 pm - 9:30pm - Riverboat Cruise with sit-down dinner and music

Saturday, September 13

8:30 am - 12:00 pm - General Business Meeting

1:00 pm - 2:30 pm - Memorial Service

3:00 pm - Catholic Service

Saturday Evening Banquet:

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm - cash bar

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Dinner

8:00 pm - on - Evening Program

GET FASTER

Save time and save the 483rd some money as well. For those members who use the internet - you can now receive your newsletter by e-mail saving postage and receive it up to two weeks sooner. Just e-mail the newsletter editor with your e-mail address and let him know that you wish to make the change to an e-newsletter. If you still wish to receive the newsletter by mail and e-mail that can be arranged too! Just e-mail me and let me know how you wish to receive the newsletter. E-mail: ironman8x@yahoo.com

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

HOLIDAY INN SELECT ST. PETERS/ST. CHARLES

4341 Veterans Memorial Parkway
St. Peters, Missouri 63376
1-800-465-4329 or 1-636-928-1500
RESERVATION CODE: 483RD

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE # () _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ TIME _____ AM/PM DEP.
DATE _____

NUMBER OF ROOMS NEEDED _____

HOW ARRIVING: FLYING _____ NAME OF AIRLINE, FLIGHT NUMBER AND TIME

AND DATE OF ARRIVAL _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS: _____

Room Rates: The room rate is \$79.00 per night, plus tax.

Shuttle Service from Lambert Field to hotel. The shuttle will pick you up at the airport when you arrive if you call the hotel (only the local number) at 1-636-928-1500 when you leave to get your flight to St. Louis. Otherwise, call the number from the house telephone when you are in the airport after you've landed and they will pick you up (this may take 30 minutes).



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
PINS:	
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
PATCHES:	
15 th Air Force Shoulder Patch	\$ 4.00
U. S. Flag Shoulder Patch, Right or Left	\$ 4.00
MEDALS:	
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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Postage \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone and email address _____

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

PX Report

By George Stovall

There has been limited activity in the PX this Winter. Maybe it's the economy. Nevertheless, we have added a few new items to bring to the PX this year in St. Charles and to order any time. These new additions are:



1. 483rd Logo Attache Case \$12.00
2. 483rd Logo Desk Clock with two photo frames and folds into a triangle that can be used as a pencil holder \$ 7.50
3. 483rd Logo Address Book with Calendar \$ 3.00
4. 483rd 2009 Calendar with scenic pictures of America \$ 3.00

To order these new items - use the convenient order form at the top of this page.



Memories Books

The Memories Book is now at the printer and should be coming out by the time you receive this Newsletter. We are sorry for the delay that was caused by the task of assembling the book and identifying members, which fell, at the last moment, to Marion and me. The Covington Memories Book is \$22 and is ordered from the PX.

There will be a Memories Book for St. Charles at the same price, and you will have it in your hands by December 1 or before. But, if you order it on the registration form and pay for it in advance, it will only be \$20.

RECEIVING AT MEMMINGEN

Submitted by Stanton "Mike" Rickey

The following story is about Krauts on the receiving end at Memmingen. For more just google "Willi Unger".

Willi Unger was a Luftwaffe fighter pilot who shot down one B-17 at Memmingen on 18 Jul 1944 according to his official "after action" report. I often wondered if it was me, and longed to meet him. Unfortunately Willi passed away last year. However, if you Google him several accounts can be read. One such is attached.

18 July 1944

"...I have been feeling ill for several days. Angina has been diagnosed and I've been grounded and confined to my bed. It is a beautiful bright morning. My la comes in to tell me a call has come in from Division. A force of about one hundred bombers with strong fighter escort is headed towards Munich. Such a relatively small force heading towards a large city like Munich is unusual and it is difficult to track with radar the exact course of the bombers given the proximity of the Alps. Our Einsatzleiter (Mission Co-ordinator) Hptm Kraus has put the pilots on readiness. The first sightings come in from the ground observation post at Kempten. The bombers target must be Memmingen! My gut feeling was right! There are just minutes now before the bombers arrive over the field. Individual Staffeln are scrambled taking off in formation wingtip to wingtip. The noise of the air raid sirens is slowly drowned by the approaching drone of bomber engines! I pull on some trousers over my pyjamas. My driver Matton rushes in out of breath as the first explosions go off. The building is shaking. Damn close! We dash outside to my car, gun the engine and with squealing tyres we tear off. People are running around in panic as bombs rain down. The air is filled with the sound of engines, the bark of the flak guns and the crashing of collapsing buildings. There is a small wood just off the airfield. We jump out and throw ourselves to the ground. After what seems like an eternity the sound of the bombers recedes and we drive back to the field to be confronted with some terrible sights. Dead and dying are lying around, mostly civilians. We try to help those still alive. Our accommodation blocks are in ruins, where my room was, just an enormous hole. Ironically, just a few days later, English POW's brought in to clear up, find my Knight's Cross in the rubble. By some miracle the Ops building is untouched. We are able to follow on the radio the air battle then raging as the Geschwader under Hptm Moritz registers kill after kill. II/JG 300 also shoots down many bombers. IV/JG 3 receives instructions to land back at Schongau and that same evening I drive over to congratulate Moritz on the announcement of his award of the Knight's Cross....".
More on the Memmingen raid by the 483rd BG at <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/neilpage/memmingen.html>

Strategic operations against Germany from mid July were carried out by US Fifteenth Air force units based in Italy. On the 18th July, some 500 B-24s and B-17s attacked targets in southern Germany and Italy including the Dornier aircraft works at Manzell.

Some 45 Fw 190A-8/R-2's of IV.Sturm/JG 3 led by Hptm Wilhelm Moritz were scrambled to meet this force. For the second time within a fortnight the Sturmgruppe was to decimate a formation of enemy bombers with the new Sturm tactics.

The Sturmgruppe climbed to meet the bombers now flying over Innsbruck in a north westerly direction. As the Gruppe got into position individual Staffelführer selected their targets behind the bombers, ordered their pilots to take up station in

line abreast and calmly held their fire until they had approached to close range. Gruppenkommandeur Moritz misjudged his first approach badly and passed right underneath a squadron of B-17s that were then blasted out of the sky by Horst Haase's 2/JG 51 recently brought back from Russia and now attached to the Sturmgruppe. Haase claimed his 49th victory. Oskar Romm in 12 Staffel claimed 2 bombers and a P-51. Willi Unger 1 B-17. The less experienced pilots of the Staffel also shot down bombers. Karl-Dieter Hecker who had been with IV/JG 3 since its formation in June 1943 and who was to end the war as Staffelführer 15/JG 3, shot down his 5th bomber. 11 Staffel's Werner Gerth scored his 15th and 16th victories. Willi Maximowitz and Gerhard Vivroux both also formerly of the Sturmstaffel, their 9th victories.

At first Hans Weik's 10 Staffel were unable to form up as they came across the fighter escort. Weik broke away on his own to attack a relatively unprotected squadron of B-17s. It was a decision that was to end Weik's career as one of the leading aces in the defence of the Reich. Flying his Fw 190 A-8/R2 'weisse 7' he shot down a B-17 at 10:50 hrs for his



White 7 flown by Hans Weik IV/JG 3

Sturmbock Fw 190 A-8/R2 of Staffelführer Hans Weik 10/JG 3, 'weisse 7' seen in July 1944 at Memmingen. Note the solid black cowling with the JG3 Udet emblem and visible on the rudder, the rows of white Abschussmarkierungen. Lt Weik had recently scored his 34th victory. Note that this aircraft has been illustrated in the past as white 1. Hans Weik's logbook shows that he did not fly a white 1 Sturmbock, information courtesy Bernd Willmer.

36th victory but he was hit and wounded by return fire from the bombers as he was going through the formation.

It was apparent that the heavily armoured Focke Wulf 190 fighters could only operate effectively when left unmolested by escort fighters and on the 18th July the fighter escort were starting to take their toll. Most of the Sturmgruppe pilots shot down were able to bail out successfully. Willi Unger was shot down south of Memmingen and baled out with only slight injuries. But Erich Erck who had shot down 2 B-17s in the Sturmangriff fell victim to the P-51 Mustangs and was killed. Fw Otfried Baisch who had been part of the Krebs-gerät detachment in Willi Unger's 12 Staffel in May was also shot down and killed. Another slightly unusual casualty was Oskar Romm who dropped out of the battle with blood streaming from his nose apparently due to a problem equalising air pressure at the high altitude the Sturmangriff took place. He was subsequently to be put on light duties until September as part of his medical treatment.

Meantime the air battle moved closer to the Focke Wulf's field at Memmingen. In fact the B-24 Liberators (sic—should be B-17s) of the 483rd Bomb Group, 15th Air Force were raiding Memmingen field! The Sturmgruppe had been unable to prevent its own base being bombed and having just taken off themselves casualties amongst ground personnel still out in the open and destruction on the ground in general were heavy. Warned by radio that the field was badly damaged the various elements of IV/JG 3 sought to put down at airfields throughout southern Germany. Only those machines critically short of fuel attempted to land between the craters at Memmingen.

483rd BOMB GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to 483rd BOMB GROUP (H) ASSN., and mail it to: GEORGE STOVALL, 825 NE LAWDALE PL., CORVALLIS, OR 97330. E-mail: gstovall@peak.org

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	Price	No.	Total
REGISTRATION (PER PERSON)	\$25	_____	_____
Tuesday: Daniel Boone Farm & Montelle Winery & Klondike Café (includes \$10 Credit Voucher (per person) for Lunch, Winery or Gift Shop	\$30	_____	_____
Tuesday Evening Reception, featuring delicious hors d'oeuvres	\$20	_____	_____
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Wednesday PM - Memories Night			
Meal Choice: _____ Chicken Cordon Bleu _____ Prime Rib	\$30	_____	_____
Thursday AM: Anheuser Busch Brewery & Grant's Farm or Forest Park	\$30	_____	_____
Thursday PM: Dinner Theater			
Meal Choice: _____ Roast Beef _____ Chicken Marsalla or _____ Fish Crusted with Parmesan	\$30	_____	_____
Thursday PM: Squadron Party hosted by 840 th Squadron			
Meal Choice: _____ Chicken Elizabeth (with crab stuffing) or _____ Prime Rib	\$30	_____	_____
Friday: Ladies' Brunch	\$10	_____	_____
Friday PM: St. Charles Historic District Tour - includes Lewis & Clark Boat House Museum Entry Fee	\$20	_____	_____
Friday PM: Mississippi Riverboat Dinner Cruise			
Meal Choice: _____ Prime Rib _____ Chicken Champagne _____ Manicotti w/Ricotta Cheese or _____ Alaskan Pollack	\$50	_____	_____
Saturday PM: Banquet			
Meal Choice: _____ Herb Crusted Salmon _____ Breast of Chicken w/apple-walnut stuffing or _____ Herb Crusted Beef Tenderloin	\$40	_____	_____
Memories Book for St. Charles	\$20	_____	_____

Menu choices are subject to change.

Refund Policy: If you can't attend or change tours, your money will be refunded, except for the \$25 per person registration fees, or if you change tours before the buses and dinners are scheduled and have been paid for in advance.

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