

815



816



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840



483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

VOLUME 31

JUNE 2008

NUMBER 2

ST. CHARLES IN OUR SIGHTS

Gateway To the West to be Explored by 483rd Bomb Group



Aerial View, Downtown St. Louis

TOURS AND EXCURSIONS



Tuesday, September 9th Tour: Our Early Bird Tour on Tuesday, September 9th is to the original Daniel Boone Farm - a step back into Missouri's past. The home is a four-story structure, built between 1804 and 1810. This is a 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.



Wednesday, September 10th 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 tables and concludes in the Hospitality Room for complimentary samples of their products or soft drinks and snacks.

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!!!



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.



Thursday, September 11th Tour: The St. Louis Gateway Arch and Museum of Western Expansion - we are programmed to go up the Arch, 40 at a time, at 10 minute intervals, then wander around, take in the Museum of Western Expansion, gift shop, maybe 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. Those who have been to Grant's Farm or those who are not going to the Farm, will probably go over to the Art Museum at Forest Park.

Museum Of Western Expansion



The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial is more than just the Gateway Arch - although that is the focal point. The Museum of Western Expansion under the Gateway Arch offers a brief history into the travels of Lewis & Clark, the driving forces

FUTURE REUNION REPORT

By George Stovall

Our next reunion will be at Branson, Missouri. The Branson Reunion Chairman, Jack Nobel, will give details on this at the Business Meeting.

I will give a report on my survey of future reunion sites, the proposal to form a joint 5th Wing, for a combined reunion in 2010 of the 2nd, 97th, 99th, 301st and the 463rd.

I have written to the 2nd, 99th and the 463rd Bomb Groups and invited them to send representatives to join us at our Business Meeting and banquet this fall, and also to join us at the Branson reunion. So far, the 463rd has committed, and probably the 2nd.

To make your voice heard, you have got to come to the Business Meeting on Saturday morning!

Publicity And Reunion Report

By George Stovall

I think we have an enjoyable and affordable reunion scheduled for St. Charles this fall. Marion and I just returned from the St. Louis area after going over our hotel accommodations at the Holiday Inn Select. We previewed the tours of Daniel Boone's Farm, the Gateway Arch and Museum of Western Expansion, the delightful Grant's Farm, the Lewis and Clark Boathouse Museum, moseyed around historic St. Charles, and dropped \$20 at the local casino on the banks of the Missouri.

The Holiday Inn and staff have provided us with meeting rooms, memorial service room and banquet space we need, and meals at a decent price. In addition to sleeping rooms, the hotel offers an exercise room and indoor and outdoor swimming pools. Our Day Room is excellent, and we will have the usual coffee, beverages, pastries, cereal, fruit, bagels for the hungry travelers.

The hotel offers a 10% discount for café meals for reunion attendees. Also, you get the USA Today delivered to your door. You can request a refrigerator for your meds — first come, first served. There is plenty of hotel parking at no charge, and there are at least 12 nearby eateries, such as the Ponderosa Steak House, Red Lobster, Hooters, Burger King, Denny's, a Chinese restaurant and several Mexican restaurants. The supermarket, Pay and Save, with a pharmacy, is behind the hotel parking lot, and the Jewish Hospital is a block away and a Bank of America is two blocks away. The hotel also has a spacious lounge and bar.

The hotel has a courtesy van to take you on errands and they will pick you up at the airport when you arrive. **READ THE SHUTTLE SERVICE INFORMATION ON THE HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM.**



President's Message

It is only three months until our St. Charles reunion. Your reunion Chairman has planned a good time for every one. The St Charles area has many attractions, how-

ever, the most enjoyable one comes from being with our 483rd comrades. You are urged to attend for the fellowship with all as well as visiting a great place.

Several other 15th Air Force Bomb Groups have been invited to send representatives to St. Charles to help plan for a joint meeting in Branson, MO 209. The present plan preserves each group's integrity by holding individual board meetings, while holding joint tours, memories night, receptions, banquet, etc.

We can socialize and get to know each other at the joint events.

It would help the Reunion Chairman to have the number planning to go on tours, attend dinners, etc as soon as possible. Please get this information to him early.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon at St. Charles, MO.

ELLIS F. MAXEY, PRESIDENT

Roster News

Dear Members:

I want to welcome two new Friends who have joined the Association as Life Members. They are, George Boger and Martin Upchurch. Hopefully, we can see you at the next reunion in St. Charles MO.

A sad note on membership dues. This year, I had to make 124 SI-06's inactive members and the way it is going, I may have to make many more SI-07' inactive members next year unless they pay their dues. As mentioned many times before, 25.00 for yearly dues and 100.00 for Life Membership dues which also entitles you to a Heroes CD which contains crew histories with pictures of our 483rd members.

As usual, look at the mailing label of your newsletter to see where you stand with your dues. If it says (A), it means that you are an active member and if it says (SI-07), it means that you have not paid your dues for 2008.

Looking forward to St Charles, MO God willing.

Guy Venier



Guy Venier



ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

Continued from page 1

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. The farm is full of all kinds of animals, including a camel you can feed, and of course, you can pet the Clydesdale horses. You don't want to miss this tour. It's well done, lots to see, good food and free drinks



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 Lidgerbergh Gallery, the Jefferson Gallery, the Benjamin Franklin Gallery, and many other exhibits and galleries. We are alternating trips to Grant's Farm and Forest Park.



Friday, September 12th Tour: St. Charles Historic District. Your tour bus starts loading at 12:30 PM to take you to a do-it-yourself tour. Eat, drink, poke around, visit shops, galleries, but each person on the tour will have a full admission ticket to the Lewis and Clark famous boathouse replica in the museum. One bus can be sent to the casino in the same area after the boathouse tour, for those who want to take in some gambling. Bus leaves for hotel at 4:30 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.

OTHER AREA MUSEUMS

American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog

A fine arts museum devoted to man's best friend. Displays include paintings and artifacts by artistic masters through the ages. Gift shop and library available to visitors. Closed Mon. and holidays.

Black World History Museum

Life-size likenesses of famous African-American Missourians including George Washington Carver, Dred and Harriett Scott and Josephine Baker.

Campbell House Museum

1851 mansion with original Victorian furnishings.

Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis (New Cathedral)

World's largest collection of mosaic art; museum and shop. Open daily for Masses and self-guided tours. Mosaic museum.

Winston Churchill Memorial & Museum

Founded in 1969 to honor the life and legacy of Winston Churchill, the museum is housed in a 12th century church from the middle of London, and contains a new interactive media-rich interpretive exhibit.

First Missouri State Capitol State Historic Site

State Capitol from 1821 to 1826. Fully restored legislative chambers and interpretive center.

Holocaust Museum & Learning Center

Photographs, artifacts and audio-visual displays. Resource library and oral history archives. Self-guided audio tour.

International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame,

Home of the St. Louis Cardinals Hall of Fame Museum

Two great sports museums in one. 5,000 years of bowling history, more than a century of St. Louis baseball and four free frames of bowling.

Kemp Auto Museum

One of the best private collections of Mercedes in the world. Includes acclaimed limousine, cabriolet, sports car and sedan designs from 1886 to the present.

Lewis & Clark State Historic Site

Visitors center located near the former Camp River Dubois where explorers Lewis & Clark wintered before they embarked on their great trek west. Includes orientation film, 55-foot long keelboat replica, reconstructed Camp River Dubois. Exhibits on the Louisiana Territory and the Native Americans who lived there, preparations for the trip and the impact and legacy of the expedition.

Museum of Transportation

More than 300 pieces including steam, diesel and electric locomotives, passenger and freight cars, automobiles, streetcars, buses and aircraft.

The Pulitzer Foundation for the Arts

Through exhibitions, its building and its programming, the Pulitzer seeks to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of art in the context of architecture.

Saint Louis Art Museum

Built as the Fine Arts Palace of the 1904 World's Fair and one of the nation's leading comprehensive art museums. Collections include works of art of exceptional quality from virtually every culture and time period.

Soldiers Memorial Military Museum

Military museum and memorial dedicated in 1936.

Scott Joplin House and Museum

Scott Joplin house was opened as a museum dedicated to Scott Joplin's life and music, and to the vibrant community that surrounded the building at the turn of the century.



In July 1944, Europe was aflame with the fury of World War II, and the struggle for aerial supremacy over Germany was in crisis. In the pre-dawn darkness, the Fifteenth Air Force launched its B-17s from southeast Italy against the vital German airfield at Memmingen, 56 miles west of Munich. Due to bad weather, most groups had to return home or divert

to an alternate target. Their fighter escort could not protect them until later. The 26 B-17s from the 483rd Bomb Group forged on, alone and on schedule, led by a squadron commander determined to do his duty.

Unbeknownst to them, the Germans had developed new aerial tactics based on mass formations of fighters designed to shoot down entire bomb groups at once. The 483rd, without protective fighter escort, was ambushed by 200 German fighters! The Distinguished Unit Citation describes how the 483rd Bomb Group, with extraordinary heroism, gallantry and determination, carried out the bombing attack as ordered as German fighters attacked in waves of concentrated fire power. Yet, in certain knowledge of destruction, undaunted by the spectacle of Fortresses exploding and burning on every side, forced to witness comrades jumping from B-17s with their parachutes on fire, the crews pressed home their determined assault on the target. They succeeded. Fourteen B-17s and their crews were shot down with guns blazing as they destroyed 53 enemy fighters! The leading squadron, after "Bombs Away," even slowed down to give limping comrades fire cover, although it almost spelled their own destruction. It was acknowledged by many as the greatest air battle of WWII by the Fifteenth Air Force. Bombing results were devastating. In addition to blasting German fighters and hangars on the ground, the B-17s destroyed the only flying prototype of a Nazi dream, the German ME-264 long-range bomber. The ME-264 was capable of bombing New York or Washington and could have struck as far as New Orleans. The attack was led by a long, tall, 24-year-old pilot from West Point. For his dedication and leadership that day, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross. His name was Louis Theodore Seith.

Ted Seith was born in Quincy, MA, in 1921 of a mother with Irish roots and a father who came to America from Germany as a child and faithfully served 31 years in the United States Army. The Seith military tradition was strong. Ted's grandfather was a German soldier during the capture of Strasbourg in the Franco-Prussian War.

Ted grew up in San Diego, CA, and entered USMA, just before Hitler invaded Poland. As a cadet, he was a varsity football player yet ranked among the top five percent of his Class. He still managed to play in the cadet dance orchestra, be part of the Dialectic Society and join the Fishing Club. With half his class, he entered flight training in 1942 and earned his wings at Stewart Field in December 1942. On 19 Jan 1943, Ted graduated from West Point and, with his classmates, plunged into the vortex of WWII.

Ted married his childhood sweetheart, Marjorie Easterly, on Graduation Day, and they immediately left for sunny Florida and B-17 transition training. His happiest tour was back at West Point during 1945-48 as a physics instructor. There, his son James was born in 1946, and daughter Susan arrived in 1948.

Louis T. Seith

Commandant, USAFA 1965-1967

No. 13062 : 17 Jan 1921 - 6 Mar 2007 : Died in

Potomac Falls, VA

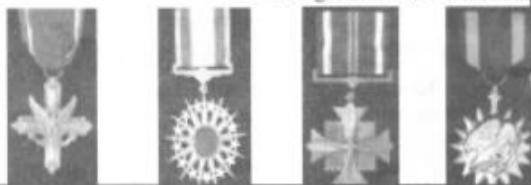
Interred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

Ted was noted as a pleasant, hard-working officer with outstanding potential. His grasp for detail was enormous, yet he understood major events and missions. Everywhere Ted went, he made things happen. He was a brilliant commander of the 414th Fighter Group, and, as Commandant of Cadets at the Air Force Academy, his leadership produced Air Force officers who distinguished themselves during Viet Nam. GEN Seith was a dexterous leader of Military Assistance in Thailand and a strong commander of the Seventh Air Force. He became Director of Plans and Policy for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Ted's final assignment was as Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Powers Europe. After 38 years of distinguished military service, GEN Seith retired as a command pilot with over 4,300 flying hours.

After retirement, Ted accepted leadership of the Air Force Aid Society, providing emergency assistance to Air Force personnel and their families. He wanted to help young airmen. During his 13 years as Director, GEN Seith revitalized the organization and revamped internal procedures to support further growth. Educational loans shot up by six times while he was there; emergency aid by 12. He also established grant programs for education, starting a bright, new chapter in the value of the Air Force Aid Society. The Department of Defense recognized GEN Seith's inspiring leadership in 1991 by presenting him with its Distinguished Public Service medal. In his later years, Ted found happiness in Boothbay Harbor, ME, working with youth programs at the regional YMCA. His talent created their modern computer and billing systems, and his drive got their camp for children started and his efforts got the YMCA new facilities. In 1996, GEN Seith was recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer of the year by the State of Maine. From his magnificent home, he and Marge spent delightful hours and days charting precise courses amongst the lobster pots off the beautiful coast of Maine in their 35-foot power boat, the *Alert*. Ted Seith had more layers than an onion. At the core, surprisingly, was a joyful sense of humor, concealed under sturdy physical courage, covered with a thick blanket of dedication to duty, overlaid by interest in everything around him, surmounted by talents in athletics and academics, capped by an intense, continuing search for self-improvement. His ability to handle physical pain was remarkable. Ted never complained. He was quiet, but imposing; humble, yet decisive; and a tower of strength to those around him. Ted was calm in a crisis.

He acted first and spoke later, with the quiet assurance that commands attention. In a Hall of Heroes, Ted Seith stood tall and inspiring, dedicated to "Duty, Honor, Country." The body of GEN Louis T. Seith rests in Arlington, just a few feet from the old home of GEN Robert E. Lee, Class of 1829, with whom he shared the deep conviction that "Duty is the sublimest word in the English language."

— Marge Seith and a classmate



OUR OWN FOUR STAR OFFICER & GENTLEMAN

By Leon Waldman

1st Lt Louis "Ted" Seith came to the 483rd at McDill, Dec 1943, shortly after graduating from West Point and flight schools, on his way to a meteoric rise to 4 stars.

His First duty with the 840th Squadron was as Operation Officer but very shortly, to my delight was promoted to Squadron C.O. His attitude towards flight crew that we should fly & fight and no C_S_ - , a welcome change.

Capt. Seith participated in the first shuttle mission to Russia in June of 1944. July 18, 1944 Maj. Seith led the Group to bomb the aircraft factory at Memmingen, Germany. I was with Lt. Long on Seith's right wing in my position as right waist gunner, and with that view to 3 o'clock I probably had the first view of what I thought was a flock of locusts. Turned out to be a flock of enemy fighters and we were in our most historic battle. The 840th being the lead Squadron saved us because all the attacks and losses were on the three rear squadrons and finally a P 38 group showed up and rescued the survivors. Major Seith continued on and successfully bombed the target.

Upon return to base we discovered an unexploded 20mm shell 10 feet in front of my window in the wing behind #3 engine and wing tank. The plane was 841. Shadrack which in October wound up in the Alps south of Innsbruck.



8-22-1944 L to R Capt John J. Schweitzer, Grp. Nav., B. S. Johnson, Engineer, Maj. Sith (lighting Up), Capt. William J. Kilpatrick, Co-pilot

The mission earned us our first Presidential Unit Citation, and Maj. Seith was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

On August 22, 1944 I flew my last mission, #50 & 51 with Major Seith to the oil refinery at Odertal, Germany and he brought me home safe and sound again.

He completed his missions some time later and after a 30 day leave home returned to the 483rd as Group Operations until VE Day.

32 years followed of honorable service to our nation as outlined in the current article from the West Point Taps.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to work in the PX, Hospitality (Day) Room, and as Bus Coordinators.

To volunteer, send this form with your reservations or by itself to me: George Stovall, 825 NE Lawndale Pl., Corvallis, OR 97330. Phone: (541) 758-0009. You can also let us know by sending a email to: gstovall@peak.org

Name: _____

Taps

Deceased Members not previously Noted in Newsletters

Name	Squadron	Date
Abernathy, Edward F	840	09-10-95
Butters, Raymoned O	815	01-23-08
DeBolt, Forrest E	840	04-24-08
Edwards, Edward W	815	08-15-05
Jarnot, John J	816	07-13-50
Kellenberger, Robert P	816	02-15-08
Lesage, Verne E	816	02-10-08
O'Roak, James R	816	02-17-08
Oliver, Dell W	817	04-20-08
Wallis, William L	640	01/16-08
Williams, Ocie G	840	04-26-08

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.

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

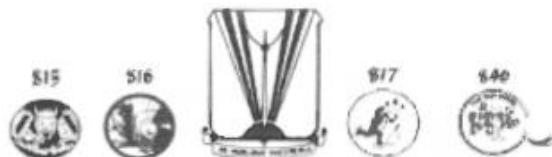
3:00 pm - Catholic Service

Saturday Evening Banquet:

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

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Dinner

8:00 pm - on - Evening Program



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

NEW ITEMS

483 rd Logo Attache Case.....	\$ 12.00
483 rd Logo Desk Clock with two photo frames and folds into a triangle that can be used as a pencil pen holder.....	\$ 7.00
483 rd Logo Address Book with Calendar.....	\$ 3.00
483 rd 2009 Calendar with scenic pictures of America.....	\$ 3.00

B-17 Ceramic Mug, 12 oz., wraparound B-17.....	\$ 15.00
B-17G Plane Spotter Mug with stats and B-17 silhouettes.....	\$ 7.50
USA Cotton Bucket Hat, adult size.....	\$ 3.00
Stars and Stripes Cotton Bandana, 21" x 21".....	\$ 2.00
Leis, Red, White and Blue, 34", soft plastic.....	\$ 1.00
Balloons, 11", imprinted 483 rd Bomb Group B-17 Flying Fortress Italy 1944-45.....	\$.50
483 rd Logo Canvas Tote Bag.....	\$ 5.00
483 rd Logo Flashlight, Batteries and Wrist Strap included, 12-bulb LED light.....	\$ 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 in front, sizes S through XXL.....	\$ 10.00
Sweatshirt, 483 rd , 15 th Air Force, Italy 1944-45 on front, white, light or dark grey, red or blue, sizes S through XXL.....	\$ 20.00
Jacket, blue, 483 rd logo on left front, B-17 on back, sizes S through XXL.....	\$ 50.00
Shirt, white knit, B-17 and 15 th Air Force above pocket, sizes S through 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 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, Small, Pilot, Navigator, Bombardier or Gunner.....	\$ 4.00
Wings, Large, Pilot, Navigator, Bombardier or Gunner.....	\$ 5.00
Wings, 15 th Air Force in middle.....	\$ 5.00
15 th Air Force Pin.....	\$ 5.00
Unit Citation, Small.....	\$ 4.00
Unit Citation, Large.....	\$ 5.00
B-17 Hat Pin, Small.....	\$ 4.00
B-17 Hat Pin, Large.....	\$ 5.00
U. S. Flag Pin, Large.....	\$ 5.00

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
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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: stovall@peak.org

PX Report

By George Stovall

Next to the newsletter, the PX is a vital component for keeping the 483rd an ongoing organization. The wearing of a cap, a shirt, a jacket, and various memorabilia that says "483rd" is what the PX does. It all comes down to numbers and sales. If we don't get enough attendees at the reunion and attendant sales, the PX will fold. We have the merchandise; just be sure to come and see us in the PX.



This year we have added some things that are good for **ONLY** one year - a 2009 calendar and a 2009 address/date book. We have also added an attractive attache case with our 483rd logo and a useful desk clock/picture frame/pencil holder, also with our 483rd logo.

Our St. Charles PX motto this year is: "Never leave the PX without your 483rd Tote Bag with something extra in it!" Also, look for your Lucky Number each day.

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. This delay caused our book to lose its place in the queue, so we were rescheduled for a later printing. The Covington Memories Book is \$22 and can be 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, or your money will be refunded if the book is later than December 1. If you order it on the registration form and pay for it in advance, it will only be \$20.



B-17 Graveyard

Kingman (Arizona) Army Air Field trained 36,000 aerial gunners during World War II. On 26 Feb 1946 the training base became Storage Depot 41, and was one of five sites chosen to dismantle and render thousands of warbirds down to aluminum ingots. The job was finished by 1948.

70 Million pounds of aluminum from 7000 airplanes was shipped out of Kingman. In addition to the acres of B-17s shown here, other combat aircraft that were scrapped were B-24s, B-25s, B-26s, and fighters. These planes were created for the purpose of winning the war, and represented the finest and most complex examples of mechanical art produced by the human race up to that time.



A relatively few escaped destruction, and some are still flying today. Others rest in museums. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation established five large storage, sales and scrapping centers for Army Air Force aircraft at Albuquerque, NM; Altus, OK; Ontario, CA; and Walnut Ridge, AR in addition to Kingman. An estimated 150,000 planes were considered surplus and 26,900 combat types were scheduled to be scrapped.

Approximately 10,000 warbirds were flown to Kingman. Most of the trainers and transports could be used in the civilian fleet. The bombers and fighters were of little peacetime use, although some were sold at fire sale prices. You could buy a AT-6 for \$1500; a P-51 for \$3500; a B-25 for \$8250. The four-engine B-17s and B-24s went for \$13,750. Although a baker's dozen of B-17s are still flying, the Collings Foundation has the only operational B-24 today.

Many WW II combat aircraft were transferred to schools for educational purposes and to communities for memorial uses for a minimum fee. A Boy Scout troop bought a B-17 for \$350, but thousands of aircraft that ran the gauntlet of flak and survived attacks by enemy fighters could not escape their ignominious end at smelters.

Several hundred men were employed at Kingman on the dismantling project. B-17s that originally cost the government about \$350,000 each were cut into four foot wide chunks and fed to the furnace. Engines and instruments were removed, while sections of wings and fuselages were melted for their aluminum content. An estimated 12,000

pounds of aluminum was the yield from each bomber, and every hour they were melting one proud warbird.

Submitted by Mike Rickey



Only 13 Fortresses Still in The Air

In World War II B-17 Flying Fortresses filled the skies in all parts of the world. And after the war they continued to be seen in the same skies, used not for bombing, but for mail delivery, passengers, freight, fire fighting, aerial mapping and all sorts of other tasks. Most of the surviving Forts, however, came home from the war only to disappear at the hands of the salvagers. Only a handful escaped the bomber bone yard. And currently, this number is 48. This comes courtesy of the "B-17 Co-Op" a voluntary, informal association of persons involved with the restoration of the B-17 aircraft, with special thanks to 398th friend Tommy Garcia of Alvin, Texas. Of these 48, only 13 are currently on flying status, such as the 457th's own Sentimental Journey, sponsored by the Confederate Air Force. No more than 23 are on static display, proudly showing off at various sites around the world. Then there are a dozen others in various shapes — some in hulk form, some in the process of being restored and others still out there to be found and brought home.

FLYING AIRCRAFT REMAINING

SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

- Confederate Air Force, Arizona Wing, Mesa, AZ. Paint - 457th Bomb Grp.

ALUMINUM OVERCAST

EAA Aviation Foundation, Oshkosh, WI. Paint - 398th Bomb Grp.

CHUCKIE

- Vintage Flying Bomb Group Museum, Meacham Field, Fort Worth, TX. Paint - 486th Bomb Group

NINO-O-NINE

- Collings Foundation, Stow, MA Paint - 91st Bomb Group (Sister ship to Sentimental Journey)

FUDDY DUDDY

- National Warplane Museum, Elmira, New York. Paint - 457th Bomb Group

PINK LADY

- Forteresse Toujours Volante, Cerny, France. Paint - 351st Bomb Group

SHADY LADY

- Evergreen Vintage Aircraft, Inc., McMinnville, OR. Paint - 34th Bomb Group

TEXAS RAIDERS

- Confederate Air Force, Gulf Coast Wing, Houston, TX. Paint - 381st Bomb Group

THUNDERBIRD

- Lone Star Flight Museum, Galveston, TX. Paint - 303rd Bomb Group

YANKEE LADY

- Yankee Air Force, Belleville, MI Paint - 381st Bomb Group

MISS ANGELA

- Palm Springs Air Museum, Palm Springs, CA. Paint - 34th Bomb Group

SALLY B

- American Air Museum, Imperial War Museum, Duxford, England. Paint - 447th BG

MEMPHIS BELLE II

- Military Air Restoration Corporation, Chino, CA. Paint - 91st BG

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

FIRST NAME _____

SQUADRON (_____)

SPOUSE/GUE _____

STREET ADDR _____

CITY, STATE, Z _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____

DISABILITY/DII _____

	Price	No.	Total
REGISTRATION (PER PERSON)	\$25	<u>2</u>	<u>50</u>
Tuesday: Daniel Boone Farm & Montelle Winery & Klondike Café (includes \$10 Credit Voucher (per person) for Lunch, Winery or Gift Shop	\$30	<u>2</u>	<u>60</u>
Tuesday Evening Reception, featuring delicious hors d'oeuvres	\$20	<u>2</u>	<u>40</u>
Wednesday AM: Anheuser Busch Brewery & Grant's Farm or Forest Park	\$30	<u>2</u>	<u>60</u>
Wednesday PM - Memories Night			
Meal Choice: <u>1</u> Chicken Cordon Bleu <u>1</u> Medallions of Beef	\$30	<u>2</u>	<u>60</u>
Thursday AM: St. Louis Arch & Museum & Grant's Farm or Forest Park	\$30	<u>2</u>	<u>60</u>
Thursday PM: Dinner Theater			
Meal Choice: <u> </u> Roast Beef <u> </u> Chicken Marsalla or <u> </u> Fish Crusted with Parmesan	\$30	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Thursday PM: Squadron Party hosted by 840 th Squadron			
Meal Choice: <u> </u> Chicken Elizabeth (with crab stuffing) or <u>2</u> Prime Rib	\$30	<u>2</u>	<u>60</u>
Friday: Ladies' Brunch	\$10	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>
Friday PM: St. Charles Historic District Tour - includes Lewis & Clark Boat House Museum Entry Fee	\$20	<u>2</u>	<u>40</u>
Friday PM: Mississippi Riverboat Dinner Cruise			
Meal Choice: <u>1</u> Prime Rib <u> </u> Chicken Champagne <u> </u> Manicotti w/Ricotta Cheese or <u>1</u> Alaskan Pollack	\$50	<u>2</u>	<u>100</u>
Saturday PM: Banquet			
Meal Choice: <u> </u> Herb Crusted Salmon <u> </u> Breast of Chicken w/apple-walnut stuffing or <u>2</u> Herb Crusted Beef Tenderloin	\$40	<u>2</u>	<u>80</u>
Memories Book for St. Charles	\$20	<u>1</u>	<u>20</u>

(Menu choices 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.

Monday Evening get-together - 2 chairs

TOTAL \$ 640⁰⁰