



483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

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President's Message



After almost 4 weeks touring Jolly Old England, Ireland, as well as looking for the Loch Ness Monster in Scotland, an emotional trip to Normandy, walking the Beaches of Omaha, and the American Cemetery, Kathy and I find ourselves in the parking lot of a mall

in Casper, Wyoming. Yes sir, Casper, Wyoming. I write this on the 20th of August, and tomorrow in Casper will be the total eclipse of the sun. It is my understanding that over 200 private planes are scheduled to arrive for the eclipse at the local airport and zoom off right after. Some 200 million people are within a few hours drive of this phenomenon, so I guess we do not have exclusivity.

Final reminder. With this newsletter, the San Diego Reunion is a scant few weeks away. As our veterans age, our numbers are becoming smaller. This is inevitable. But the conversations in the Day Room will resound through the second and third generations. Your memories need to be shared more now than ever. I have so appreciated the stories of Mike Rickey, Don Stern, and Don Robinson, and others. Don Robinson just passed within this last year. This history, your history matters. Where ever you are, the San Diego airport, Lindberg Field, is just a few hours travel time away. All highways lead to San Diego for those

who prefer to Drive. We would love to see you in San Diego. The tours are great, the sunshine is almost guaranteed, but the fellowship will be a treasure trove of memories. Please come!

Dennis

Membership News

Our beloved Membership Secretary and his family have been on a huge roller coaster ride since June 14 when an ambulance had to be called to rush Guy to the hospital due to a diabetic episode where his glucose levels were at a dangerously low level. He was hospitalized and his sugar was normalized. However when everything was looking up, Guy fell during the night and broke his hip. This required that he have partial hip replacement surgery.

When his hospital stay was up Guy was transferred to a rehab center where he found the food had no taste and he was worried that he had his monthly reports for the 483rd to do. However, the only computer he had access to was his daughter Rene's laptop. This allowed him to play some of the computer games he loves to play but he was very concerned he was unable to prepare his monthly 483rd report. We assured him (through Rene) that his primary concern was to get better and that his reports could be done when he was better and he had access to his desktop computer.

After his stint in rehab, Guy moved into an assisted living facility and was delighted when his desktop computer was all set up and he could finally get to his reports. (He had about 2800 emails piled up and was able to answer a couple hundred of them as soon as his computer was up

and running. If you have emailed him and not received a response you now know why.) He was absolutely delighted to have some semblance of normalcy returned! However, his body had other plans...that evening Rene noticed that Guy's foot was red and inflamed. She took him to the doctor the next morning only to once again have Guy admitted to the hospital, this time for gangrene of his foot. Luckily the antibiotics got the infection under control and they were able to restore blood flow to his foot. Unfortunately the story doesn't end there because Guy developed a MRSA infection and is now sporting a "port" (portacath) for the antibiotics he must have for the next 6 weeks. Although blood flow was restored to Guy's foot, the doctor informed Rene that one of his toes must be amputated as soon as they get the MRSA cleared up.

Guy is now in rehab once again and when that is complete he will return to assisted living. Not long ago, Guy told Rene it looked like they weren't going to make it to San Diego.

Let's all pray that Guy has nothing more befall him and that he returns to health as soon as possible. If you want to send him a card, send it to his home address, which you will find on the last page of this newsletter.

Sandee West Maeda

Reunion Chair

P. S. - I am happy to report that Guy is back in assisted living and is very happy to be reunited with his computer. As soon as his MRSA infection is gone he will have the bad toe amputated and hopefully will be back to his wonderful self!

2017 Reunion – San Diego, CA

October 17 - 21, 2017

Our 39th Reunion is soon upon us and the final preparations are being completed. If you haven't sent in your reservation please do so as soon as possible. We need to have final "head counts" for several of the venues two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Reunion, especially for the vetting for the submarine base where our Friday night dinner is being held. Please see the last two newsletters for information about our tours.

The Midway Museum is bending over backwards for our visit. They are going to give us a complimentary private Docent-Led tour and have reserved an area called the Forward Sponson for us to have our lunch. The Fantail Café will be providing our lunch for us so that we do not have to stand in line to order our lunch. (It has been my experience that this can take quite a while when they are really busy.) They will be serving the following:

- Roasted Turkey - Swiss, Lettuce and Tomato
- Carving Board Roast Beef - Swiss, Lettuce and Tomato
- Hickory Smoked Ham - Cheddar, Lettuce and Tomato
- Taco Salad Wrap - Black Beans, Lettuce, Tomato, Avocado & Cheddar/Jack Cheese

All of these sandwiches will include a Bag of Chips, Fresh Baked Chocolate Chip Cookie, Iced Tea, Condiments & Napkin

Some of you have sent in your reservation and have signed up for the Friday night dinner but did not send in the form for the vetting process for the submarine base with your registration. (Your name and address information on the form MUST be the same as what is on your identification that you carry every day...driver's license, military ID, etc.) We need that information two (2) weeks in advance of our dinner which will be on the submarine base. Also remember that the registration # asked for is where you put your Social Security number but with no hyphens. I am trying to make this process as safe as possible when going through the mail. If you happen to fall in this category, please get that form to me as soon as possible.

So looking forward to seeing everyone in San Diego.

Sandee West Maeda

Reunion Chair

★★★ IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ ★★★

Our meal on Friday night will be on the submarine base that is very close to our hotel. However, this venue necessitates another layer of information to be included with your registration. On the back of the attached registration form, you will find a form to fill out and send in with your

registration. This must be completed for each person covered by the registration form and match each person's ID. You will notice there is also a place for a number. That number says it is your registration number but it is really for your social security number. Also for security purposes please DO NOT use hyphens (-). An example would be 111111111 rather than 111-11-1111.

Hotel Information

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Bayside. Our room rate is \$125.00 plus tax per day. The Holiday Inn Bayside caters to reunion groups, especially the military and it was the "best deal in town". Be sure that when you make your reservation you tell the person on the other end that you are with the 483rd Bombardment Group:

Holiday Inn Bayside
4875 N Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92106
Toll Free: 800-662-8899
Email: res@holinnbayside.com
Website: <http://www.holinnbayside.com/>

Did You Know?

This section contains reprints of selected stories and other interesting information from newsletters published during the past years and other 483rd BG publications.

STERPARONI

(reprinted from 483rd newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2, July 1985)

It may have been forgotten over the years but when the 483rd Group arrived in North Africa Colonel Barton singled me out to take a small group of our eventual air base to get it ready for the rest of the organization. I picked Johnny Hommel and his crew and we flew up there in advance of everyone else. The reason I was selected had to do with my ability to speak better-than-average Italian. I can't recall the exact date of our arrival but it must have been two to three weeks before the entire air element of the group flew in. One of the first things I had to do was to go into San Severo and hire me about 220-250 natives from that city. I did this through the U.S. Military Commission. Each morning we sent several

trucks into San Severo to pick up our work force, and in the late afternoon, we took them home. The building destined to be the officers' mess had been used as a stable and there was still a lot of hay and refuse in the building along with some pretty unhealthy odors. I never thought we'd be successful in converting it into an eating area, but after all the floor tile had been laid and the walls painted, it turned out quite well. In addition to preparing the HQS area for the top brass we built all the platforms for the tents in each squadron area, dug all the latrines and cleared the entire area of considerable debris. The only place Hommel's crew and I had to sleep was in our sleeping bags in a building with no windows, and the only thing on the floor was straw. I remember that vividly because after our 2nd and 3rd day of hard work, we journeyed into San Severo to buy some wine. Unbeknownst to us, none of the wine we purchased had been "aged" but we drank it anyway - quite a lot of it! I awoke during the night having to throw up and found myself in pitch-black environment. It took quite a while for me to realize where I was. With the help of a couple of the other men, we found the door and made our way outside but I don't think I'll ever forget that hang-over.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DID

By Clyde Barnes (840)

(reprinted from 483rd newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 4, August 1987)

If you are like most of those who served in the 483rd Bombardment Group, you would find it difficult to guess how many men it took to accomplish our mission while we were in Italy. I could ask you, "How many men were assigned to each squadron and what service did each perform?" Could you answer such a question? I couldn't until recently, but Ralph Simpson (815th) has come up with the data that might open your eyes as it did mine. Ralph discovered the information in the National Archives and presented it to our Association's Archives.

The authorized number of Officers for a squadron was 114 and the authorized number of Enlisted men was 426. These official figures were based on the requirements for a squadron assigned twelve B-17's.

In addition, Group Headquarters was authorized 30 Officers and 92 Enlisted men, bringing the Group

total to an authorized strength of 486 Officers and 1796 Enlisted men, for a grand total of 2282 men.

By October 31, 1944 the 483rd averaged a 50 percent increase in combat aircraft (about 18 per squadron) with a shortage in many MOS's (Military Occupational Specialty) for the authorized number shown in the accompanying tabulation of work assignments. The greatest shortage was noted in Flight Crews (about 20 percent). However, just about every category was faced with a shortage. A few examples follows:

Flight Crews	20%
Radio Maintenance	20%
Aircraft Electricians	17%
Armorers	0%
Aircraft Maintenance	19%
Bombsight Maintenance	17%

At the time of authorization a classification [for Aerial Gunners] was not required for a B-17 Bombardment Group, however as of October 31, 1944 there was an average of 42 Aerial Gunners per squadron. At the time the authorized list was put together, all B-17 gunners attended special training classes and were so identified - i.e., AP Armorer/Gunner (612); AP Engineer/Gunner (748), AP Radio/Gunner (757). Those classified as Aerial Gunners (611) in general had not been sent to any special training facility other than aerial gunnery school.

How impossible it would have been to operate our air base without Control Tower Operators (552), yet none were authorized, whereas each squadron had one Control Tower Operator assigned to such duties. For each squadron, men with that skill served our 483rd Bomb Group, and like most of us, didn't know they were not authorized. But their skills were welcomed by all.

The "Typical Squadron Roster" tabulation is just that, a list of assignments at the squadron level. Group Headquarters was primarily a supervisory, dissemination and special service operation. At Group Headquarters there were 30 Officers and 92 Enlisted men authorized to perform those functions needed. Additional men assigned from all of the squadron rosters were attached to accomplish all the services required. Squadron men with MOS 945 (Photo Lab Tech); 650 (Telephone Switchboard Operators); 239 (Teletype Mech); 805 (Cryptographic Tech); and others served to fill the gaps at headquarters.

There were 20 Officer classifications at the squadron level and 29 at Group Headquarters. However, there was an overlap in 17 classifications, leaving 12 Specialties at headquarters that were not performed at the squadron level, for a total of 32 different Officer classifications.

Also at the squadron level there were 65 different MOS classifications for Enlisted men and 32 Enlisted at Group Headquarters. There were, however, only 8 at headquarters that were different from those at the squadron, making a total of 73 different MOS classifications for Enlisted men.

Adding the 32 Officer MOS with the 73 Enlisted MOS shows a total of 105 different skills required by the 483rd Bomb Group to achieve its assignments and objectives.

The men who served in these positions can be very proud of our Group's achievements. During the Group's 13½ months of combat service, we flew 215 missions. This is almost an average of two missions every three days! And, we were awarded two Presidential Citations for outstanding valor. The above 215 missions does not include three secret missions (9 sorties) our Group made.

With men being transferred into and out of the 483rd since its activation on September 22, 1943, has resulted in more than 5000 names of those who served at one time or another with our Group before it was deactivated at Pisa, Italy in September 1945. At present about 1400 of the 5000 have been located and are members of the 483rd Bomb Group Association. In addition there are about 651 who are known to be deceased, including about 200 KIA (Killed in Action).

[There were] many skills required to achieve operation of a B-17 Bomb Group and there always seemed to be too few men to get the job done, but we can be proud that it was done and done with pride. Perhaps this is the reason there is such congeniality and comradeship among the Association membership.

ONE REASON TO JUMP OUT OF A B-17 *(reprinted from 483rd newsletter, Vol. 9, No. 1, December 1988)*

The 483rd Bomb Group target for 20 February 1945 was an oil refinery on the outskirts of Vienna, Austria. Bombs were dropped at 1310 hours from 26,000 feet. Over the target there was no flak or fighter activity, which was unusual for one of the

most heavily defended targets in Europe. The only defenses observed were numerous surface smoke screens stretching like ribbons across the ground,

After "bombs away" we were in our rally turn when the Tail Gunner reported flak at 8 o'clock low and coming up. We were, instantly hit by about seven shells and the ship felt like it was falling to pieces. One shell tore half the ball turret away and cut 11 of our 16 control cables, plus large holes in the waist section. It also wounded the right Waist Gunner. Another Shell shattered the right side of the radio room and damaged #3 engine, which later caught fire. Still another shell destroyed all of our radio equipment on the left side and wounded the Radio Operator. Two more shells failed to explode but went right through both wings. Again we were hit and #1 and #2 spilled oil over the wing and the cockpit windshield. Both engines failed. And still again we were hit from above, penetrating the bullet proof glass on the left side of the cockpit severing hydraulic oxygen lines behind the Co-Pilot. The resulting fires were quickly extinguished by the Engineer. All of this happened within ten seconds and the aircraft shuddered so badly it was impossible to read the instruments.

The engine damage threw us up on the left wing and we started almost straight down. We started to gain some control at about 14,000 feet and were able to temporarily hold altitude at 10,000 feet. As we gained control, #1 engine was feathered, #2 engine was a runaway but finally the prop shaft broke loose and the prop just wind milled. It was a miracle, but the interphones were still working so we could execute our emergency procedures and minimize the panic. Reducing weight to hold altitude was the first priority. The entire ball turret was jettisoned. Except for the tail guns, everything loose went out

We headed east to reach the Russian lines, but continued to lose altitude slowly. The Austrian countryside and the Germans became clearly visible below. Our charts showed the Russian line was at Lake Ballaton, Hungary. We overflew our estimate of their lines by ten minutes. By then #3 was on fire and failing. Bail outs started at about 3,000 feet. Neuman and I hit the silk under 1,500 feet, exactly one hour after being hit.

Unfortunately the charts were not correct and all of us were not safely behind Russian lines. Ginoza landed in German territory and was captured; one or two others landed in "no man's land" and were pinned down between enemy fire, but eventually reached the Russian side. Rogers broke his right leg on landing but was picked up safely. The Navigator's

(Numedahl) chute did not open and he was killed. Neuman landed safely, but then spent some time on his knees with a Russian machine gun pointed at his head. I landed safely in a tree with two Russians shooting at me all the way to the ground.

For the next month, under Russian supervision, we walked, sat, rode in Model A trucks, sat, rode seven days in a freight train car to Bucharest. We were finally flown out by New Zealanders on 20 March 1945.

(Donald T. Carney, Co-Pilot on Harlan G. Neuman's crew, 815th Squadron, presented this brief account of their ordeal to the Archives.)



Support the 483rd with a Bequest

What is a "bequest"?

A bequest is a gift from your estate, made by including language in your will or living trust, that names the 483rd Bombardment Group Association as a beneficiary. The bequest can be made as a specific dollar amount, percentage of your estate, or specific property.

Here is some sample bequest language:

"I, (your name), of (your city, state, zip), give, devise, and bequest to the 483rd Bombardment Group Association (specific dollar amount, percentage of your estate, or specific property) to be used where most needed."

Whatever amount you would consider giving would make a huge difference in our long-term efforts. Your bequest will not only keep our organization vibrant, but it will also help us perpetuate the legacy of the 483rd at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. We also give out annual scholarships to ROTC students pursuing a future career in military aviation.

For more information on how this can be done, we encourage you to consult with your personal accountant or estate-planning attorney. If we can also be of help to you in achieving your planned giving goals for the 483rd, please feel free to contact Dave Raffel at DaveRaffel@Gmail.com.

Support the 483rd

Excitement is building for our upcoming 39th reunion in San Diego from October 17-21. It will be wonderful to see old friends and meet new friends in the process of paying tribute to the heroes of the 483rd Bombardment Group.

Given the reality of the dwindling numbers of actual 483rd heroes, it is increasingly up to us who comprise the second and third generations of the 483rd to carry on their memories and legacies.

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to help in this effort.

Your contributions will not only keep our organization vibrant, but they will also help us perpetuate the history of the 483rd at the Museum of Aviation at Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. We also give out annual scholarships to ROTC students pursuing a future career in military aviation.

There are now two ways that you can make a charitable contribution. The quickest way is to go to www.GoFundMe.com/World-War-II-Heroes and contribute using your credit card.

The second way is to write a check to the 483rd Bombardment Group Association and send it to our treasurer: Mr. Leon Waldman, 14630 Dickens Street, Apt. #108, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403-3610.

We need your help to perpetuate the memories and legacies of the heroes of the 483rd!

*** Contributions are tax-deductible. ***

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PAST PRESIDENTS

Phillip A. Luetke (Deceased) 1980
William A. Haskins (Deceased) 1981
James V. Reardon (Deceased) 1982-83
Lynn M. Borders (Deceased) 1984
Joseph W. Gawthrop (Deceased) 1984
M.L. "Bob" Hottman 1985 (Deceased)
Harry K. Keller (Deceased) 1986
Donald R. Speegle (Deceased) 1987
James "Russ" Heflin (Deceased) 1988
Evan M. "Jack" Edwards (Deceased) 1989
Ralph H. Simpson (Deceased) 1990
Harry P. Millnamow (Deceased) 1991
William P. Dunn (Deceased) 1992
Edward T. Cotton (Deceased) 1993
Harry D. Whye (Deceased) 1994
Ray H. Whitaker (Deceased) 1995
Harold D. Leveridge (Deceased) 1996
William I. Jeffs (Deceased) 1997
George F. Stovall 1998 (Deceased)
John A. Campbell (Deceased) 1999
Verne H. Cole (Deceased) 2000
Benjamin H. Adams Jr. (Deceased) 2001
Robert W. Mitchell (Deceased) 2002
John P. Nobel 2003
Curtis B. Clark 2004
Fredric A. Hicks (Deceased) 2005
Wilfrid Hebert 2006
Stanton "Mike" Rickey 2007
Ellis Maxey (Deceased) 2008
Jim Ashley (Deceased) 2009
Dennis West 2010, 2011, 2012
Sandee West Maeda 2013, 2014, 2015
Harold Chubbs, 2016

483rd Bomb Group San Diego Reunion Registration Form

Listed below are all registration, tours and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total amount. Make check payable to "483rd Bombardment Group " and send to Sandee West Maeda, 1050 E. 5th Ave., Escondido, CA 92025. Any questions concerning Hotel Reservations, Meals, Tours, Registration or general reunion questions, call or text: Sandee: (760) 213-5022 or e-mail: 483rd reunion@gmail.com

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____

Squadron (or friend) _____ Spouse name (if attending) _____

Guest Names _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

Arrival Time / Depart: _____

Disability /Diet Restrictions _____ E-mail _____

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON IS \$25.00

Late registration fee per person is \$25.00 if not registered by September 16, 2017

Date	Event	Price	No. Attending	Total
Tuesday pm Oct. 17	Early Bird Tour: 1:00 pm Rosecrans National Cemetery, Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma Light House, Junipero Serra Museum	\$33.00		
Wednesday am Oct.18	Tours: Old Town San Diego, Balboa Park, The Veterans Museum, San Diego Air & Space Museum, (Lunch in Old Town on your own)	\$50.00		
Wednesday pm Oct.18	483rd Welcome, Memories Night and Dinner Meal: Rosemary Chicken (No Host Bar)	\$39.00		
Thursday am Oct. 19	Tours: Flying Leatherneck Aviation, USS Midway, Seaport Village (Dinner at Seaport Village on your own)	\$50.00		
Thursday pm Oct. 19	YounGuns Dessert Reception 7:30 p.m. (Suggested Donation)	\$12.00		
Friday am Oct. 20	Ladies Brunch With Entertainment : Surprise Creation	\$25.00		
Friday pm Oct. 20	Tours: Miniature Museum, Gemological Institute of America Tour, Museum of Making Music, Admiral Kidd Center <u>Dinner included:</u> Buffet with dessert, coffee tea (No Host Bar)	\$75.00		
Saturday pm Oct. 21	483rd Banquet Combination Dinner: Tri Tip Beef and Grilled Chicken Includes Caesar Salad, Roasted Red Potatoes, Green Beans Almandine, Rolls and Butter; Dessert (No Host Bar)	\$45.00		
	Registration Fee Per Person (EXCEPT VETERANS)	\$25.00		
	Late Registration Fee Per Person after September 16, 2017 See Note Below **	\$25.00		
TOTAL				

Mail Registration Form and check payable to 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Reunion Association to Sandee West Maeda, 1050 E. 5th Ave., Escondido, CA 92025

** A late registration fee will be imposed for registering after the registration deadline of September 16, 2017, with special exceptions for health issues. (This was initiated at the 2013 483rd General Business Meeting to help plan tours and schedule busses.) Reunion registration cancellations will be accepted until October 10th, 2017 without fee or penalty, so . . . please help by registering early. Come - Enjoy - Have Fun!

Friday Night Dinner Information

1. Exact Name on ID	
Exact Street Address on ID	
City, State, Zip on ID	
Registration Number	
2. Exact Name on ID	
Exact Street Address on ID	
City, State, Zip on ID	
Registration Number	
3. Exact Name on ID	
Exact Street Address on ID	
City, State, Zip on ID	
Registration Number	
4. Exact Name on ID	
Exact Street Address on ID	
City, State, Zip on ID	
5. Exact Name on ID	
Exact Street Address on ID	
City, State, Zip on ID	
Registration Number	
6. Exact Name on ID	
Exact Street Address on ID	
City, State, Zip on ID	
Registration Number	