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483RD BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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

VOLUME 41

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NUMBER 3

President's Message

Dear 483rd Members,

Hello to all 483rd members. It has been a thrill to serve this past year as your Association President. This year has been very successful. Guy Vernier continues to make strides in his recovery and during his recovery we have begun to have a bit of success in transferring his large database of 483rd history, members, etc. into a more modern and accessible computer format. Thank you to Guy, Jay Clifton, and others for helping to initiate this project and continuing to see it through and good luck to Guy as he continues his recuperation.

Another set of kudos to Jay Clifton for all of the work planning this year's reunion. Jay and I visited Oklahoma City this past Winter to learn more about what the city has to offer and I can tell you that it offers a lot. If you have not registered for the reunion, I suggest that you do so and do so soon. I predict that you WILL have fun.

Dave Raffel, Mark Halebsky, and I have been at work creating the foundation with which to build our 483rd Legacy Fund. As you may recall, the Legacy Fund is a fund raising entity designed to create and perpetuate a means to continue the charitable work of the Association, even after the Association is dissolved at some future date. The three year goal of the Legacy fund is to raise \$75,000 with which to form a "nest egg" of money to continue charitable giving in honor of the 483rd. Specifically, it will continue to fund in perpetuity Air Force ROTC scholarships and donations to the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins, Georgia in honor of the 483rd. Thus far, we have created and incorporated a 501(c)(3) organization to receive and facilitate donations and things are moving towards our goal.

Please review the recent letter sent to you about a proposed change to the Association Constitution. The proposal aims to supplement the monies of the Legacy fund with any money left from the 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association upon the eventual dissolution of the Association. It is for your review and to be voted on at the upcoming reunion.

We heard from Michele Carafa, an Italian citizen, who lives near the site of the former Sterparone base and he met and entertained Helen Capone, daughter of Lawrence E. LaFlamme (Larry), a radio operator with the 817th Squadron, when she recently visited Italy. The spirit of the 483rd is indeed alive and well.

Finally, I would like to give a 483rd salute to all of you and especially to all of those who have helped the Association and me during my tenure as President. It has been a lot of fun and I look forward to the leadership of Mark Halebsky as he takes the reins as President. Thank you again.

Respectfully,

Russell Daniel

Switched After Death

F/O Richard Wesley Lane 483rd BG, 815th BS, 15th AAF was repatriated at his funeral in Filley, NE on Thursday, August 9, 2018. He was killed on December 27, 1944 on his second mission when the B-17G aircraft he co-piloted was shot down on a bombardment mission over Austria. As Allied aircraft neared the target at Linz, Austria, they encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire.



Lane's aircraft took a direct hit where the left wing attached to the fuselage. Pilot, Howard Sampson ordered the crew to bail out as he struggled to keep the plane flying. Sampson was heard to say, "Come on Lane, help me keep this plane level", but Lane was wounded and unconscious and this may have been the reason Sampson remained with the plane. The plane later went into a spin and reportedly crashed near St. Florian, Austria. Six crewmen survived by bailing out just before the plane exploded.

Lane and three other crew members were listed as buried in St. Florian Cemetery on Dec. 29, 1944. Through a series of events, the remains of the four men were exhumed for identification and in January 1946, the Quartermaster General identified the remains to be Lane. However, Lane was mistakenly exchanged after identification, and his remains were sent to Henri Chappell American Cemetery in Belgium as an unknown and another soldier's remains were sent to his family in 1948 and buried in Filley, NE by mistake. After disinterment last year and DNA testing, the unknown airman was

identified as Lane. On August 9th he was laid to rest where he was supposed to be in 1948 and the other airman's remains are undergoing DNA testing and is believed to be Pfc. Fred W. Ashley, a 2nd Cavalry reconnaissance scout.

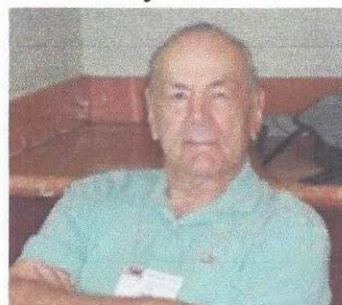
Membership News

Greetings comrades:

In the past I sent out a small 2 x 3 card with the receipt when a yearly paying dues member paid his yearly dues. I feel, since I am running very low with the 2 x 3, just the receipt should be sufficient to let the member know that the dues for the year has been paid. This should save us some money since we have very few yearly paying members.

See you soon.

Guy



TAPS – Deceased Members Not Previously Reported in Newsletter			
Name	Squad	Date	Reported By
BATES, RALPH F	817	7/13/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
BENEZRA, JOSEPH	816	12/21/2015	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
BORATEN, BERNARD T	816	10/??/17	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
DAMROW, MELVIN H	817	12/19/2016	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
GARBERA, THEODORE	816	3/2/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
HEBERT, WILFRID E	840	7/23/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
HOSSO, JOHN	840	4/14/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
KENO, ROBERT P	817	6/9/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
KERR, FRED B	815	6/11/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
KOLLER, CHARLES J	816	2/27/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
LENKOSKI, L DOUGLAS MD	840	3/10/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MAHI, GEORGE JR	815	6/2/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MASTRONI, FRANK	815	6/4/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MCCORD, ROY N	840	1/24/2014	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
MILLER, ROY G JR	815	12/8/2017	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
PICCARRETO, ARTHUR A	817	8/22/2016	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
POWELL, HAROLD M	816	09/28/??	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
SANDERSON, GERALD W	815	9/14/2016	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
SCHWARZ, ELDON F	840	11/7/1997	DEE COOGLER
SPINDEL, DAVID J	815	4/30/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
TRUDEAU, ROBERT P	815	10/4/2016	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
WAIBEL, CLIFFORD G	817	4/23/2018	GUY VENIER (OBIT)
WINKLER, ARTHUR H	840	4/7/2018	KAREN NELSON

2018 Reunion – Oklahoma City September 25-29, 2018

This is your last chance to register - don't miss the reunion! The 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association Reunion in Oklahoma City will be held September 25-29, 2018. Hotel:

Holiday Inn OKC Airport
4401 SW 15th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73108

Phone: 1-405-601-7272
Toll-free: 1-800-HOLIDAY

The room rate is \$99.00 plus tax per day, including two breakfast coupons per room. Be sure that when you make your hotel reservation you tell the person you speak with that you are with the 483rd Bombardment Group.

*** IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ ***

Our tour of Tinker Air Force Base and dinner at the Tinker Club will require more information to be included with your registration. On the back of the registration form, you will find a form to fill out and send with your registration. This information must be completed for each person covered by the registration form and match each person's ID. The "Registration Number" is your social security number without hyphens

483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund

The primary purpose of the Legacy Fund is to provide a long-term vehicle to continue the goals and purposes of the existing 483rd Bombardment Group (H) Association.

There are certain membership & fundraising limitations of the current Association, which is a 501(c)19 entity --- a military association. These limitations do not exist with the Legacy Fund, which is a 501(c)3 entity --- a public charity.

We now have almost \$7,500 in our checking account, with another almost \$600 on the way from a recent Facebook fundraiser! This is a good start towards our goal of raising a \$100,000 "endowment" within the next 3 years.

We could then use 5% of these funds (\$5,000) on an annual basis to continue funding the scholarship program & the 483rd Bombardment Group museum display at the Robins Air Force Base. We could also

use funds to educate the public on the legacy of the 483rd, attending different public events and activities.

Our initial board of directors is made up of 3 members: Russell Daniel (president), David Raffel (secretary/treasurer), and Mark Halebsky. The number of members on the board now needs to be expanded, so if you're interested in serving, please contact one of the current board members.

Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund! You can send donations to:

David Raffel, 483rd Legacy Fund, 5951 NW 63rd Terrace #1415, Kansas City, MO 64151

If you have a donor-advised fund at a community foundation, you can make donations from that donor-advised fund to the Legacy Fund. If you know of businesses or organizations that might be interested in supporting our efforts, please let us know so that we can contact them.

If you have any questions about the Legacy Fund, please contact Russell Daniel at: RDaniel@HostWorks.com; or Dave Raffel at: DaveRaffel@Gmail.com.

Support the 483rd in Your Estate Plan

You can provide vital financial support for the 483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund even after you're gone, so that we can continue our mission of perpetuating the legacy of our heroes from the Greatest Generation.

This can be done by a "bequest" in your estate plan. A bequest is a gift from your estate, made by including language in your will or living trust, that names the **483rd Bombardment Group Legacy Fund** 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 Legacy Fund (specific dollar amount, percentage of your estate, or specific property) to be used towards fulfilling the mission of the organization."

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.

Did You Know?

The following is the report of interrogation as taken on March 23, 1945 upon the return of 4 airmen to the 483rd base from Poland after being shot down over Blechhammer and evading capture for six months. It's a little lengthy, but well worth reading.

Special Narrative Report

Mission: September 13, 1944, Blechhammer (N) Oil Refinery, Germany

Importance of Mission & Observations: The fact that the German oil situation is critical is evidenced by lack of and abandonment of motor transport on the western front. This oil refinery has been hit before but it still produced 5,000 tons a month.

Flak at the target was heavy, intense and accurate. At least four B-17s were seen to go down over target at 1126 hours, two of which were from the 483rd. A B-17 from our Group was seen low over the mountain tops on return route.

Escape Statement

1. **Source 1:** Gus J. Kroschewsky, 2nd Lt.
(Bombardier)

Source 2: Gordon S. Sternbeck, S/Sgt. (Ball
Turret)

Source 3: Harold E. Beam, S/Sgt. (Left Waist)

Source 4: Aloys C. Suhling, Sgt. (Right Waist)

All 4 Sources are from the Robson-Stock crew, 817th B.Sqdn, 483rd B Gp., MIA September 13, 1944; Returned March 20, 1945

2. Mission to Blechhammer oil refineries 13 September 1944, (Group Mission #91) aircraft was B-17. On bomb run, after bombardier had given "bombs away" and radio man said "bombs clear" there was a very heavy explosion under the ship. The explosion broke the plexiglass in the nose and knocked the bombardier against the navigator. The bombardier was injured. Before sounding "bombs away" the bombardier noticed another B-17 approximately 150 feet below and slightly to left. Part of the wing was

directly under the wing of sources' ship. At "bombs away", ship was 29,500 feet and immediately afterward dropped to 15,000 feet. Interphones out in waist; oxygen in waist (left side) was out; No. 1 and No. 4 engines were out and had to be feathered; bomb bay doors blown off; several large holes in tail assembly and in the wings; many small holes throughout the ship. Ball turret was damaged, glass cracked. Navigator attempted to locate position. Co-pilot gave first aid to bombardier. Navigator gave 200 degree heading to pilot. At this time aircraft was at 13,000 feet and 3 ME-109s came up from 3 o'clock. Bombardier shot one down at 12 o'clock. Fighter hit waist, tail and nose several times.

Navigator advised pilot to lower wheels as a "cease firing" signal. As a bail-out was imminent, wheels were not lowered, probably damaged. Fighter made several passes before pilot gave orders to bail out. Navigator bailed first after trying to make bombardier, who was injured, go first. Waist gunner was seventh out and saw two more chutes after his. Nine (9) chutes seen to open. Aircraft was seen burning at a distance at Jablonka (4925S-1947E) Slovakia. Complete loss.

3. Never in hands of the enemy.

4. Source 2 (Sgt. Sternbeck) landed, hid chute and was picked up by local peasant. Source spoke German and refused to follow peasant to town. Saw Source 1 (Lt. Kroschewsky) lying on ground with broken foot and other injuries. Sources 1 and 2 made for woods and administered first aid. Located point on map as between Jablonka and Piekelnik. Peasant left and told men to wait while he would hunt other crew members whose chutes he had seen come down near Jablonka-Piekelnik road.

In mean time 2 soldiers in uniform (Slovakian Border patrol – Grenze Polizei) approached sources and a crowd had gathered and seemed friendly, after men established their identity. Soldiers asked to see men's pistols which, after they identified as not German, were returned to men. After civilians established lookout, they gave men bread and milk.

While descending, men claim peasants continued working in fields and ignored descending chutes. Source 1 also speaks German. Peasant who went to look for others returned with Source 3 (S/Sgt. Bean) landed in middle of village of Piekelnik and was taken in house, being slightly injured on head. He was given food and drink. A group of Grenze Polizei (border Police), 15-20, took Source 3 from house to their headquarters in town. They were very friendly and

Source 3 shook hands with each man. Man from other two crew members then came and took him to Sources 1 and 2 on a bicycle.

They were advised by the peasants to separate because of proximity of Germans. Carried Source 1 to woods and left him there. Peasants gave Sources 1 and 2 civilian coats and hats and guided them to north side of Jablonka-Piekielnik road and hid them in straw stack till dark. Germans searched vicinity with hounds and fired many shots. After dark peasants returned with story that Source 1 had been captured or killed, but this proved erroneous.

Source 1 remained in woods at Jablonka while Germans searched. Peasants that night carried Source 1 to Jablonka for medical care. He remained there 4 days, surrounded by Germans. He was removed to another house for safety. Two nights later, a German came in and recognized airman because Source 1 could not speak German very well and because cover story of being returning hostage did not go over. He interrogated Source 1 and established Source 1's identity and threatened family with shooting and burning of their house for hiding airman. This German then admitted himself as a Gestapo agent, boasting of their efficiency. Gestapo man then pulled out pistol and ordered Source 1 out of bed. Source 1 objected because of broken foot but German would not believe this, saying this was usual alibi. Source 1, knowing how Gestapo carried out threats on those aiding airmen and realizing that he too would probably be shot, drew his hunting knife from bedclothes and leaped at Gestapo agent and cut his throat. This was accomplished without allowing German agent to make a sound, outside of usual gurgling when throat is cut. He called in the family, who were thoroughly scared by this time, and Source 1 himself had to tell guard standing outside to come back later (in German). Guard obeyed. Source 1 was taken out and hidden in barn immediately, where he stayed 6 days and nights where he was fed in dark by man he did not see. Gestapo agent's body was said to have been buried in woods. Source 1 was then removed to another house in Jablonka and kept there until he could walk. While Source 1 was taken to Jablonka for medical care, the men were then taken from house to house, to one about 5 miles away where they stayed that night.

14 September 1944, Source 4 (Sgt. Suhling) and navigator (Richard L. Hansler) were brought in and the 4 men (Sources 2, 3, 4, and Hansler) started for Poland. Men were given shoes, and food and guided from house to house into Polish Partisan hands. Slovak border police were working from Germans but since

men had not been seen by Germans, they were not turned in. Sources attribute these sections largely to recent push through France. They were not taken to Slovakia because Slovak Partisans were not well organized and many Slovaks were still pro-Nazi. This particular section had belonged to Poland at one time and there were many Polish people still in it.

After 3 or 4 days and nights of walking, Sources went by north side of Nowy-Jarg near Gorce Mountains and were put into the Polish partisan hands. These Partisans were in contact with London by W/T set and said that it was impossible to put men through the Russian lines because they had no contact with them and apparently did not want it. Polish underground in connection with London. Partisans had been receiving drops from English in Brindisi and had W/T contact with Krakow, England, and Italy (Foggia)

Men were told of Canadian and Scotch escapees in vicinity who were finally, on Sources' request, brought in to meet them. This was about 15 October 1944. These men had been in Poland over a year and could speak fair Polish. These two escapees found out from Polish partisans that Source 1 was alive and coming to Gorce. In this vicinity there were about 500-600 Partisans in uniforms and also many more without uniforms. This headquarters was commanded by a Major, who had no name (this was a general security measure). Two (2) days after arrival (about 17 September 1944) major, Commanding Headquarters, presumably, sent message to Italy advising Allies of presence of airmen.

2 October 1944 Source 1 started out to meet others after contact and escape plans had been made. During journey Source 1 collapsed and was carried by helper for 3 kilometers. After being passed from house to house by different contacts, he was finally taken into Partisans' headquarters near Gorce mountains where he met the other airmen on 16 October 1944.

Britishers advised Sources not to attempt to walk out but wait for rescue plane. These men said they sent message through the Polish to crews' Group in Italy (25 October) advising them of their whereabouts and requesting orders. Three days later answer came saying "Remain with Partisans. Do not attempt to walk out. Locate landing strip in cooperation with Partisans." Finally, after receiving no help from Partisans, Sources and 2 Englishmen attempted to locate field. They found a field and wanted to send message to Italy but Partisans objected with excuse that it was not safe. Too many Germans in neighborhood. Snow began early in November.

20 November, Sources and English again requested field coordinates to be sent out over W/T. Partisans still refused saying they had other work to do.

9 December, partisans caught Pole who had been in German army and who was deserting to Hungary. Believed him to be an enemy agent so ordered him executed. American airmen were told if they carried out this order they could have all his equipment which was considerable. His home was nearby at Zakopane and his stuff was being sent up from there. Crew shot his man and obtained enough clothing to clothe 4 men in civilian clothes. Sources had very little clothing left by this time.

16 December, Belgian soldier who escaped from prison camp a week ago, joined group and wanted to fly out with them.

21 December, a Polish F/L in RAF, name Scheffer, came and said he could take charge of air escape plans for airmen knowing all ropes in Brindisi. He had been shot down in August 1944 on mission to Warsaw from Brindisi (later Sources found out that this man was not all he claimed to be).

24 December, South African soldier escapee came into camp and also wanted to fly out with airmen.

25 December, Christmas celebrated and big plans made by partisans to evacuate airmen.

1 January, Navigator (Hansler) and Source 1 went to radio station to learn what status of affairs were. Were told that no messages could be sent without Krakow approval and, in general, W/T operator was not at all cooperative. Sources deduced that Poles were keeping them there as means of obtaining supplies and did not want them to leave.

Drops were made from Brindisi by RAF (B-24s and Halifaxes) of supplies including American ammo and clothes, German, British and American weapons and some American food. Poles would not give airmen any of these supplies though they needed them badly. American \$100 and \$20 bills were also dropped (believed to be blue seal). In January, snow became steady, and flying situation became hopeless.

9 January, heard that Polish Colonel had been dropped to take charge of new airfield here.

16 January, while visiting radio station met crew of B-24 that had been shot down 16 December south of Nowy Targ (4930S-2000E)

15 January B-24 crew came to live with Sources.

17 January, Englishman went to get Polish colonel to hurry evacuation and was caught between Russian advance and Germans and could not get back. (Partisans and Russians were fighting constantly and

crew could not admit to the Russians that they were being helped by Partisans. Partisans are storing up supplies dropped to them to fight Russians after the war. They have anti-tank guns, mortars dropped by British from Brindisi; have far beyond their needs but still ask for more, using British and American flyers in their hands as excuse.)

Acting as if they were Polish partisans, Russians sabotage Germans. Germans retaliate against Polish villages, thinking it was Polish sabotage. Polish sabotage was revenged against Russians. Russians would ambush Polish Partisans' units as retaliation. Russian saboteurs were Russian guerillas who had left the army or rather men who got sick of army life and decided to fight by their own means. Russian organization was loose enough to permit such action.

19 January, P-39 (Russian) strafed and bombed Sources' position.

19-21 January, Russians advanced.

21 January, Navigator from both crews, one in civilian clothes, other in uniform, went to Tymbark to contact Russians. There met some Russians who were suspicious and held them for questioning. Sent navigator from other crew (Polish speaking) back to Sources with a Russian colonel. After identifying airmen, colonel returned. Next morning Sources went to Russian headquarters. Sent by truck to Wieliczka near Krakow where they stayed two nights and days waiting for movement orders.

27 January, went to Nowy Sacz in an open Model A Ford truck. Weather was 10 degrees below.

28 January, sent to Sabinov to be out-fitted in Russian clothing before being sent to Moscow. This was a rule of the Russians. Sent to Kapusany because last place did not know what to do with Sources.

30 January, Kapusany - Russians said that headquarters was at Nowy Sacz and crew was returned there for further action and to be issued Russian equipment.

31 January and 1, 2, 3 February, at Nowy Sacz, Russians took data from crew and radioed Moscow for order re: Americans. Russians fed crew food taken from Polish. Poles were afraid of Russians but after establishing their identity as Americans, crew were royally treated. Crew knew ropes on second visit to Nowy Sacz and did not allow Russians to billet them. They found their own billets and fared much better.

1 February, Russians brought in Scheffer, Duncan, and Brooks to Source 1 for identification.

3 February, Nowy Sacz, Russians finally billet crew in school house under good conditions.

4 February, visited by Russian Colonel who gathered names of airmen for sending to Moscow (Scheffer interpreted). Crew ate in village houses and listened to stories and propaganda against Russians. Poles did everything to instigate hatred of Americans against Russians.

10 February, Russians started guarding school building. Would not allow crew out of building. Crew members would sneak out by various means.

11 February, at Nowy Sacz met Russian soldier on street at night and misunderstood command, thereupon soldier opened up with rifle and grazed Source's shoulder with rifle barrel. Source's companion then ran. Russian soldiers stopped civilians on streets, asked time and took watches.

12 February, Russians brought in American flyer for identification; was co-pilot of B-17 shot down 15 December.

14 February, Russian one-star general in charge of army in vicinity came for visit (Scheffer prevented Source from getting names) with Lt. Col. and Colonel. Gave orders for better food, cigarettes, and issue of Russian uniforms to flyers. Officers given 500 cigarettes each. Enlisted men 150 cigarettes each.

15 February, brought in American sergeant airman. He was NEVD man (Cavalier). Sources could not get name (Scheffer prevented it again). This major gave men very bad treatment. He ignored requests for visit to navigator (Hansler) in hospital. Refused to talk to men. Food was not good (Scheffer kept airmen from complaining to General). Major would not allow men to go to church. Coming of General changed this for one day only. Russians had American food stored in cellar – pork sausage, butter, sardines, spam but did not give any to airmen.

22 February, left Nowy Sacz in GMC truck. Men given American preserved butter, sardines, spam for journey.

23 February, arrived Lwow in morning taken to first class hotel, best rooms, service, barber shop. Gave men big banquet (this being big Russian holiday). Scheffer and co-pilot signed checks. (Americans signed for all equipment they received). Chambermaid warned men of English speaking woman who worked for Russians. Also attempted to make them fear the Russians and not talk of Polish partisan activities. This English-speaking Russian woman, posing as Polish at banquet, presented herself to the airmen. Men surmised that this woman because of her good English was plant to get information out of them. Main topic of conversation here was American-Russian relations and opinions of crew.

After the banquet the hotel manager had arranged a theater party for the group to a Polish play about Americans. This was in Polish. Before the start of the play a Russian three star General and a one star General and several full Colonels entered the theater. The one-star General requested that Duncan, the Scot, who with about 10 Americans occupied front row reserved seats, move over one seat (Source and other American officers were further in rear of theater). Duncan moved over and so did all the Americans to accommodate the General. The three-star General then came over and through the one-star General again requested that Duncan move over another seat. Duncan refused becoming indignant that a mere Russian General should want him to move from a reserved seat. A heated argument ensued during which Duncan who spoke fair Russian told the General where to get off. Scheffer the Pole, told the Americans in the theater that they had been insulted and they should leave. The Americans all got up and followed Duncan and Scheffer out of the theater. The Russian Generals also became tired of the commotion and left through the lobby. Duncan grabbed the one-star General by the coat and took a swing at him but missed and started going after him again. He was hauled off by his friends. He then went back into the theater and announced to the audience that he was an American and would not be treated in this manner by the Russians.

Source 1, after things had quieted down made apologies and explanations to the Russian General, explaining that these were not Americans. The General was appeased. Officers in charge of crew, a Russian Captain, and Lt. Doctor, were drunk and had to be helped to hotel. While at hotel, men were not supposed to leave hotel but once they were in Russian uniforms, they could come and go as they pleased without suspicion.

24 February, were supposed to leave town but drunken Russian Captain failed to make transport arrangements.

Two American officers (escaped prisoners of war) were brought in by Russian Patrol and Russian Captain signed for them. The American officers joined Source 1's group.

In evening Russian-Polish woman brought in Russian international war correspondent to interview men. Because South African was apparently freest talker, they tried him first. Woman also buttoned holed Source 1 and ask him to talk of his experiences with Polish Partisans but Source 1 refused all knowledge of such. Correspondent spoke excellent

English and had his wife with him. Source 1 said before he told his story he would have to ask permission of the group. It had been prearranged by the Americans that no such permission would be granted. Before Source 1 could leave, though, he heard South African give whole Polish Partisan story to correspondent. Source 1 then went and told his companions what happened, whereupon Scheffer, Duncan, Brooks went upstairs and bodily threw out correspondent by seat of pants, kicked Russian woman in seat and tore up all papers and books that correspondent had brought.

25 February, Source 1 went to woman next day made usual apologies, having in mind obtaining "6 man lunches" packages for Americans. Woman constantly smoked American cigarettes

Left at 10 AM by train for Kiev. Crew had third class coach to themselves. Rode all PM of 25th, arrived Kiev 25 February at 1 PM. Waited till 7 PM for next train. During this wait a street fight between Russian and Americans took place. Left Kiev at 10 PM in 2nd class coach, capacity 55-60 in coach.

27 February, arrived Odessa 11:30 PM. Were deloused here (were deloused almost all places but not well). Taken to sanitarium for billeting and fed and quartered by 4:30 AM. About 350 other Americans were here and next day, 28 February, 300-400 American P/W's arrived here. On list, 500 EM and 250 officers came in. Major Ball of Moscow came to organize Americans in Odessa.

2 March, Russian Air Corps. Colonel with woman officer interpreter told men they would fly from Odessa to Poltava, to Cairo, to Italy. Major Ball had to get Moscow release to fly men to Poltava but shouldn't get it because of weather that day.

3 March, weather still bad.

4 March, weather good but no clearance.

6 March, told to sign up for sea trip.

8 March up at 5:30 AM and aboard ship at 7 AM. The "Norton Bay" English Transport under New Zealand colors, 1400 tons, brought out about 3,000 men. Major Ball said that reason Russian did not fly them out was that Russians would give him no guarantee that they would take crew to Poltava. Major Ball was suspicious that Russians wanted to lay hands on American flyers and keep them from returning for a while because they had seen too much of the Polish front.

9 March, interrogated by Major Fummers of 15AF Intelligence. Short brief write-up of experiences given.

12 March, docked Fort Said 11 AM. Major Fummers and RAF Capt. Did interviewing of men on board. While on board Scheffer gave complete glowing account of his part in the escape of the men. On arrival were interrogated by C.I.C. Identified themselves as Americans.

16 March, left Port Said, arrived Naples 20 March. In Naples taken to 19 replacement center.

Regarding Hansler:

2 February, Richard Hansler, navigator, developed pneumonia from his exposure and was taken to a hospital at Nowy Sacz. He was in various hospitals until 14 March, under Russian care. Medical care was fair, food was as good as the Russian officers got. In the meantime, the other companions had left for Odessa on 21 February.

14 March, Hansler was taken to headquarters at Nowy Sacz where together with British escapees he remained for 2 days. He was then taken by truck and train, alternately, to Odessa, 16 March to 22 March. He had very good care enroute.

Sailed from Odessa on MV "Circassia" on 21 March and arrived at Naples on 2 April. Back at 483rd B.Gp. 5 April 1945.

YOUR 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
PRESIDENT	President-Elect	Membership Secretary	Treasurer
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Reunion Chairman	Fundraising	WEB SITE	
Jay Clifton cliftonjay57@gmail.com	David Raffel daveraffel@gmail.com	483rdBombGroup.org	

483rd Bombardment Group (H) Reunion - Registration Form

Oklahoma City, OK
September 25 to 29, 2018

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 (H) Reunion" and send to Jay Clifton, 7589 Bittersweet Drive, Gurnee, IL 60031. Any questions concerning Hotel Reservations, Meals, Tours, Registration or general reunion questions call or text Jay at (847) 217-7485 or email: cliftonjay57@gmail.com.

Please complete all registrants' names & circle whether Veteran, Wife, Widow, Friend or Guest

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

Squadron _____ Email Address: _____ Phone (____) _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name _____ V W Wi F G

HOTEL: Holiday Inn OKC Airport, 4401 Southwest 15th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73108. Telephone: 1-405-601-7272

Date	Event	Price	No Attending	Total
Tuesday 9/25, 1:00 pm	Early Bird Tour: The American Pigeon Museum and Science Museum Oklahoma	\$38.00		
Wednesday 9/26, 8:30 am	Wednesday Tour: Myriad Botanical Gardens, Oklahoma Museum of Art (Lunch on your own at Oklahoma Museum of Art Cafe)	\$40.00		
Wednesday 9/26, 6:30 pm	Welcome/Memories Night Dinner & No Host Bar (5:30 – 6:30) Choice of: Chicken Breast (#____), Roasted Pork Loin(#____), or Shrimp Primavera in Alfredo Sauce (#____)	\$35.00		
Thursday 9/27, 9:00 am	Thursday Tour: Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, Nat'l Cowboy Museum (lunch included), 45 th Infantry Division Museum (Dinner on Your Own Around Hotel)	\$52.00		
Thursday 9/27, 7:30 pm	YounGuns Dessert Reception For those interested there will be a No Host Bricktown Pub Crawl following YounGuns Reception	\$12.00		
Friday 9/28, 9:00 am	Ladies' Brunch: American Breakfast Buffet Entertainment to be announced.	\$23.00		
Friday 9/28, 12:30 pm	Friday Tour: Tinker Air Force Base Guided Tour, Dinner at Tinker AFB, Bricktown Water Taxi and OK Land Run Monument..	\$70.00		
Saturday 9/29, 6:30 pm	483rd Banquet, No Host Bar, Pictures (5:00 - 6:30 pm) Combination Dinner of Chicken and Steak	\$50.00		
	Registration Fee Per Person (EXCEPT VETERANS)	\$25.00		
	Late Registration Fee*** Per Person after September	\$25.00		
			TOTAL	

Mail Registration Form & Check payable to "483rd Bombardment Group (H) Reunion" to Jay Clifton. (See address above.)

***A late registration fee will be imposed for registering after the registration deadline of September 15, 2018, with special exceptions for health issues. This was initiated at the 2013 483rd General Business Meeting to help plan tours and schedule buses. Reunion registration cancellations will be accepted until September 15, 2018 without fee or penalty, so . . . please help by registering early. **And, please complete Security Clearance Form (next page).**

Information for Security Clearance at Tinker Air Force Base

Note: Veterans with DOD ID do not need to fill-out for themselves but must for family/friends.

1	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
2	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
3	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
4	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
5	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	
6	Exact Name on ID	
	Date of Birth	
	Registration No. (e.g. 123456789)	
	Driver's License Number	
	Driver's License State of Issue	
	Address	