

STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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500th SQUADRON

501st SQUADRON

345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

January, 1984

Immediate Response Requested

1984 Reunion Plans Flying High

In order to finalize all of the plans and activities for our 1984 Reunion, it is necessary for each member to let us know what their individual plans are, and in which activities they are interested.

MOTEL RESERVATIONS

Enclosed with the *The Strafer* is an envelope for your reservations at the Stouffer's Dublin Hotel. Even though reservations will be accepted up to August 28, 1984, it is recommended that you make your reservations immediately. We anticipate an overflow and have made arrangements for an additional motel close to the Dublin Stouffer for overflow accommodations. Needless to say, the Dublin Stouffer's will accept reservations on a "first come-first served" basis. However, you can be assured that we can accommodate all who are coming to this event, even though the Stouffer may fill up quickly. There has been a lot of excitement about this Reunion and it would be wonderful to have the biggest participation ever for this memorable event.

ACTIVITIES QUESTIONNAIRE

Also enclosed with *The Strafer* is a questionnaire regarding your plans for the September activities. In order for the Reunion Committee to finalize plans, we must know how many are wishing to attend the OSU-Oregon State football game so that tickets can be ordered. Ohio State football is famous for sell-out crowds, and tickets are not available at the last minute. We must know immediately on all of the activities that you wish to participate in.

The number of meals to be ordered, the number of buses to be chartered, the tours and shopping plans neces-

sary to accommodate everyone must be known immediately. Arrangements for a golf outing must be booked early.

And, of course, the Air Force Museum and Memorial Dedication requires coordinating hundreds of people on a trip and return.

It is possible that some of the events being offered will not be popular with the group, and may be dropped from the schedule. The costs mentioned in the questionnaire are not final, but approximate. The number of people attending each event affects the cost. For example, a bus charter is a flat fee

based on time and mileage, whether 30 people or 52 people attend. The cost must be divided either by 30 people or by 52 people.

In the next issue of *The Strafer*, we will publish the results of the questionnaire and the finalized program and costs for each event.

Please make our job easier, fill out the questionnaire **TODAY** and return it to:

Ken McClure, Chairman
345th B. G. Reunion Committee
2770 E. Main Street
Columbus, Ohio 43209

President's Message

The days, months or years spent by all of us in the Southwest Pacific or the Far East in the 345th Bombardment Group are cherished, particularly so as we become senior citizens.

We have had four reunions beginning in 1973, all of which have been outstanding in camaraderie and pleasantries. We have cherished friends of earlier days of an all-expense government paid tour of tropical islands. Our next reunion will be in Columbus, Ohio, September 5-9, 1984 at the Stouffer's Dublin Hotel.

We have reserved the entire hotel. Ken McClure is, in addition to being the Treasurer of the Association, the General Manager of the Reunion and has extended maximum effort to insure that the city and all concerned will provide a most rewarding time for all attendees.

So, please make your plans, **NOW**, to be there for the many activities, plus, of course, the association with "ole buddies" of combat days.



Many interesting activities are scheduled . . . however, there will be plenty of time for visiting.

The major event planned is a trip to the Air Force Museum where we will dedicate a monument in tribute to those who served with the 345th.

There will be many other interesting functions . . . plan to be there.

Sincerely,

Ben W. Fridge
President,
345th Reunion Association.

Bina Announces Monument Plans, Fund Drive

The final drawings and plans have been approved by the committee, and contracts are being given for the building of the monument. (See previous issue of *The Strafer* for the sketch and story).

On Friday, September 7, 1984, during the Reunion, contingents of the 345th will travel to the Air Force Museum where a Memorial Dedication ceremony is planned, including a fly-over. The new monument will be unveiled at this event. A tour of the Air Force Museum will follow.

Col. Ed Bina (501st) and his committee have worked many hours on this project, and now need the financial support of the members.

The projected cost of the monument is \$12,500.00. If each member averaged a \$35.00 tax-deductible donation, the committee would have sufficient funds to finance the memorial.

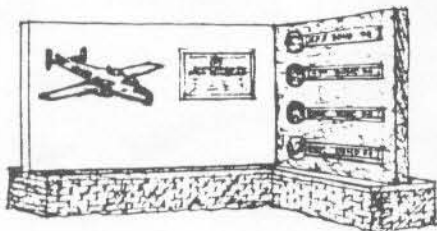
You may make a donation for yourself, or in honor of a buddy you served with, or both.

Early receipt of your donation will be greatly appreciated to insure funding will be available to pay for the long lead items required in advance.

Make your checks payable to the 345th Bomb Group Memorial Fund, and mail to Ed Bina, Chairman, 2770 E. Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43209. Receipts will be furnished to all donors.

The 345th Bomb Group Memorial Fund Committee consists of: Ed Bina, Chairman, 501; Jay Moore, 501; Jeff Blackmon, 501; Julius Fisher, 501; Bill Ogden, 498; Ken McClure, 499; and Stu Malquist, 500.

Plan To Be There



Rough sketch of artist's preliminary design of the 345th B. G. Memorial to be dedicated Friday, September 7, 1984, during the Reunion.

Contributors Thanked

In response to the "Operating Order" of February 8, 1983, the following members have sent one or more contributions for the preparation costs of the 1984 Reunion.

(The following list includes all contributions through December 15, 1984).

498th

Aloia, P.
Biega, A.
Berg, W.
Best, M.
Bianconi, O.
Blevins, C.
Botti, J.
Bowen, C. L.
Bowen, E. L.
Bronson, J.
Camene, L.
Chard, C.
Charles, F.
Coloff, M.
Cope, H.
Cottam, C.
Council, W.
Crain, J.
Cross, R.
Curtis, G.
Darnell, S.
Elam, V.
Evans, G.
Fezatte, R.
Fox, M.
Garland, H.
Giffin, E.
Givens, G.
Gilstrap, T.
Goldman, N.
Hawkes, R.
Howard, L.
Humphreys, G.
Hvizdak, G.
Hume, B.
Jenson, F.
Judd, R.
Keller, E.
Kimble, R.
Lane, P.
Luhta, A.
McArn, J.
McCready, D.
McIntire, P.
McKibbon, J.
Manners, J.
Nordin, R.
Ponder, H.
Raper, T.
Reed, H.
Rettich, C.

Reyns, H.
Rishel, L.
Rone, H.
Rosenbaum, B.
Rosevear, C.
Rousseau, W.
Saunders, H.
Schaub, I.
Schmidt, O.
Schreiner, P.
Sellards, W.
Simonson, O.
Solomon, J.
Stevens, E.
Stout, D.
Sullivan, C.
Stambaugh, Q.
Thompson, H.
Tilton, J.
Tinsley, W.
Treece, H.
Turk, R.
Vosevich, M.
Trohimovich, S.
Urdahl, N.
Usmick, R.
Wardle, E.
Ward, D.
Wanzer, R.
York, A.
Zollinger, J.

499th

Baeta, J.
Baird, J.
Baker, R.
Balochko, G.
Banz, C.
Blumstein, R.
Brown, G.
Buck, H.
Boyd, J.
Burns, H.
Cade, G.
Carter, W.
Cessna, C.
Clark, W.
Clevenger, L.
Cooper, G.
Croop, A.
Cummings, W.
Damour, L.

Daniel, O.
Decker, W. D.
Deright, S.
Dovica, M.
Dugan, F.
Dubic, R.
Egan, E.
Fait, A.
Ferguson, M.
Fisher, A.
Fleniken, L.
Fox, F.
Frasier, B.
Gamble, S.
George, J.
Gould, H.
Graham, W.
Gilkison, R.
Hanna, J.
Hardke, W.
Hardike, G.
Harding, G.
Harmon, G.
Harner, R.
Hatfield, O.
Henson, R.
Higgins, L.
Hyder, N.
Hennen, L.
Hutcherson, V.
Jepson, H.
Johnson, C.
Joseph, J.
Karnis, J.
Kemerling, W.
Kessinger, O.
Killpatrick, W.
Klemp, E.
Lanchak, S.
Lee, R.
Lemay, R.
Lemery, C.
Lewis, R.
Luttrell, P.
MacWilliam, J.
Madson, R.
Mattson, M.
Matthiesen, G.
McClure, K.
McKay, H.
McShane, I.
Menefee, J.
Miller, B.
Miller, E.
Mingello, T.
Moeller, F.
Moore, H.
Mortland, J.
Mosser, I.

Mousty, C.
Muhonen,
Mushok, J.
Naas, W.
Opie, M.
Parke, B.
Prassos, M.
Reed, B.
Reinbold,
Rizzo, R.
Rushworth,
Salzman,
Schell, C.
Scott, P.
Shaber, B.
Sharpe, W.
Simko, A.
Singer, S.
Slaughter,
Stanfield,
Stevens, F.
Shannon,
Tatteman,
Taylor, O.
Taylor, G.
Walker, N.
War,
Willie, J.
Williams, J.
Wonn, G.
Wood, M.
Wyatt, J.
Yackeiv, C.
Zarfas, H.

500th

Ames, W.
Albright, J.
Baker, W.
Blanche, S.
Britt, R.
Burnett, C.
Bynum, R.
Cavoli, B.
Comstock,
Cunningh,
Corder, H.
Dusenber,
Ellwell, E.
Epps, T.
Fitton, J.
Foss, J.
Gibb, D.
Gilbert, S.
Goel, g.
Gole,
Gooch, C.
Hanna, C.
Hicko, E.

... More Help Needed

Lawlis, M.
Leventon, M.
Landon, J.
Lowry, F.
Malquist, G.
Madeo, E.
McGuire, J.
Meech, D.
Muller, B.
Paukovich, M.
Pitman, E.
Pittman, W.
Peregoy, N.
Reheis, H.
Rezin, A.
Ritscher, B.
Sass, G.
Shock, J.
Sirokman, W.
Stepp, I.
Stewart, H.
Vale, J.
Warren, D.
Watt, G.
Whitfield, G.
Waldheim, A.
Williamson, K.

501st

Anderson, A.
Anderson, G.
Atkins, J.
Augusta, G.
Avant, L.
Bagwell, H.
Bailey, E.
Barth, R.
Becker, W.
Belknap, J.
Bina, E.
Blackerby, A.
Blount, R.
Bosworth, E.
Birchak, S.
Blackmon, J.
Burzynski, H.
Carretta, A.
Caskey, C.
Cather, B.
Chapman, R.
Chealander, J.
Crusenberry, H.
Davis, W.
Dean, H.
DeJong, D.
Erspamer, E.
Euphrat, E.
Fain, B.
Fiorello, N.

Fisher, J.
Flynn, B.
Foley, P.
Forman, J.
Fridge, B.
Freind, T.
Frye, G.
Gentry, R.
Giuliani, G.
Gronewald, J.
Hammer, J.
Hangsleben, H.
Hansen, F.
Helvey, W.
Holmes, H.
Howard, H.
Holland, D.
Jones, R.
Kagels, T.
Kahl, C.
Keller, G.
Kenny, A.
Knowles, R.
Knoll, H.
Krauss, C.
Kunkle, R.
LaCroix, B.
Lahmsen, J.
Larsen, R.
Lameron, H.
Liperella, J.
Lloyd, R.
Loscombe, W.
Lee, M.
Licht, O.
Marcus, D.
Marsden, C.
Marty, S.
Maschke, A.
McGowan, W.
McQuire, M.
McIntyre, M.
Meisner, F.
Minnick, J.
Montgomery, G.
Moore, J.
Musket, G.
Nusbaum, J.
Ohnemus, R.
Oxford, C.
Pallotta, R.
Passodelis, J.
Plock, G.
Ravin, H.
Reed, J.
Sasek, E.
Shukalo, F.
Stone, B.
Stiles, C.

Tunze, V.
VandDeerZee, D.
Valentine, J.
Van Hise, W.
Watts, C.
Weinstein, E.
Wilkinson, E.
Williams, P.
Yant, D.
Zuber, J.

Hdqts.

Adams, H.
Bacon, R.
Bishop, D.
Bursen, J.
Card, G.
Crabb, Mrs. J.
Darwin, W.
Ellen, C.
Eppstein, M.
Gastgeb, K.
Gelman, J.
Hoffman, W.
Hickey, L.
Kozlowski, E.
Lahikainen, A.
Leffman, P.
Martini, R.
Metzel, C.
Moore, P.
Ouellette, R.
Pauli, J.
Perkins, W.
Reddington, D.
Rice, R.
Robertson, E.
Martini, R.
Metzel, C.
Moore, P.
Ouellette, R.
Pauli, J.
Perkins, W.
Reddington, O.
Rice, R.
Robertson, E.
Stanton, J.
Solomonson, W.
True, C.
Van Der Veer, L.
Waterman, J.
Whitworth, R.
Witherell, W.

INFORMATION WANTED

In 1982, the bodies of Raymond Geis, pilot (499th) and Joe Mettam, gunner (500th) were found in a B-24 that crashed in New Guinea.

The plane left Moresby in March of 1944 and was flying north with 22 aboard.

Anyone knowing one of the above, please contact Ken McClure.

B-25 For Sale

There is a B-25, licensed and flying, for sale in Oklahoma. The price: \$160,000.

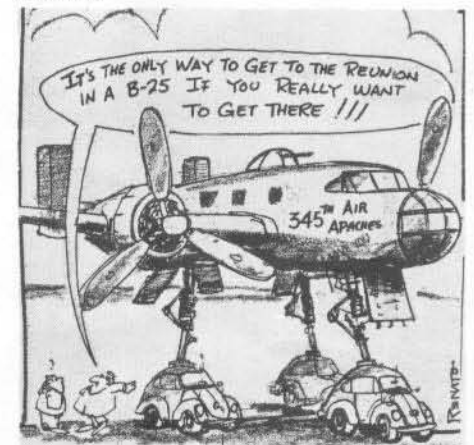
Vic Tatelman (499th) has proposed that a not-for-profit corporation be formed for those who are interested in buying stock, and if enough money is generated, the corporation would buy the airplane.

Tatelman will see to it that maintenance, licensing, AD's, etc. are kept up-to-date. The plane can be flown to centers of regions on a continuing basis, and any stockholder can be checked out (or re-checked, as the case may be).

At the end of any designated period, with a majority vote of the stockholders, it can be sold and the proceeds distributed back to the stockholders, or it can be donated to the Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian (as per the 500th program), and income tax deductions taken by the individual stockholders.

If you're interested, let Vic know immediately. The present owner is going to cooperate if there is interest, but will not wait too long for an answer.

If interested, contact: Vic Tatelman, 18900 S.W. 232 Street, Miami, FL 33170.



Travel Service Selected For 1984 Reunion

Arrangements have been made with the UCT Travel Service for special discounted airfares for the 345th Bomb Group Reunion in Columbus, Ohio.



Debbie Frazier

Through the efforts of Debbie Frazier of UCT Travel Service and Ken McClure, TWA has been selected as the official airline for the Reunion, and a discount of 25% has been obtained for members flying to Columbus on TWA.

UCT Travel Service can arrange for flights on all carriers, and can advise on costs, connections necessary for some flights, (using more than one airline), confirm your flights, and give you all departing and arrival times.

You may use your credit card for your travel reservations, as UCT Travel Service accepts VISA, MasterCard, American Express, etc.

In addition to handling your travel accommodations, you may contact Debbie Frazier on toll-free lines for information on the tours and special activities planned for the Reunion. From Ohio, call 1-800-282-0295. From the Continental U.S. (except Ohio), call 1-800-848-0123.

FREE PHONE TRAVEL RESERVATIONS

Continental U.S. (Except Ohio)

1-800-282-0295

Ohio Calls

1-800-848-0123

- Flights On All Carriers
- Tour Information
- Special Activities Information

(NOTE: We **DO NOT** handle the hotel reservations. You must contact the Stouffer's Dublin Hotel directly for your accommodations)

TWA . . . Your Official Reunion Airline

25%

Discount To 345th B. B. Members

For further information, contact Debbie Frazier

UCT Travel Service

Columbus, Ohio

345th Bomb Group 1984 Reunion



**September 6-7-8, 1984
Columbus, Ohio**

345th B. G. Reunion Committee
2770 E. Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43209

DISTANCE TO BANDETT PARKING
AIR FORCE MUSEUM
Rockwell



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