



STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

October 1985

Jerry Murphy Goes For Head Hunter Award

The *Strafer* has received a very welcome letter from **Jerry Murphy**. Jerry has retired recently, and as a result, will be able to give more time to search for our missing brothers. His letter, in part, states "If you have space in the October issue of *The Strafer*, could you insert a notice stating that if anyone is interested in finding some of the many members of the 345th Bomb Group who are unaccounted for, they may contact me. I have the missing names broken down both by states and by squadrons."

"I could use some help in the New

York city area in particular. In the last few years, I have worked with **Jones Burson** and **Bill Cavoli**, and we have found quite a few "Lost Sheep." (I received Head Hunter Award at the last Reunion in Columbus and I am a very proud recipient of that honor)."

Jerry has been sent both an alphabetical roster and a roster in ZIP sequence to help match current names with missing names in the same geographical area of the country. We hope this will aid in the all-important search of new members.

If you can help in this endeavor, please contact Jerry directly.

Jerry Murphy
5208 Lynd Ave.
Lyndhurst, OH 44124
(216) 442-7273

HEADQUARTERS

The saying is "In Cincinnati, Ohio, if you don't like the weather—just stay around a few days and we can possibly satisfy any preference." Not true this summer — hot and humid — you can believe it.

Now that summer is winding down, our hopes are that you all out there had a safe, happy and enjoyable season.

I would like to relate to you a little story. This pertains to our *Strafer* publication, and what its influence can have on our everyday lives. One day after our last issue I received a phone call. The caller was **Dale Ward** of the 498th squadron. Dale, after introductions to each other, informed me that we had been living within 4 miles of each other for over the past 20 years. Dale or I did not know each other, but in the last issue of *The Strafer*, my address was printed at the bottom of the Headquarter's article. Hence the phone call from him looking me up. How surprising and delightful! We are planning lunch together soon, and probably subsequent ones in the future before our '86 reunion. How many more of us are out there? Are there more Dales and Charlies?

Speaking of reunion, again, back on subject, "Hot and Humid" should be our thinking and planning. Time is moving ever closer to our seeing one another again. As our Jewish friends say . . . "Shalom."

The President's Message

In my July message I gave some thoughts on how those of us who have experienced combat could be instrumental in influencing public opinion in the need for preparedness in defense of our country. It is my hope that some of you have expressed your opinion at proper times in this regard.

Being silent only allows those who are opposed to everything and the fellow travelers to be heard and influence public opinion. This issue, my subject will be on the down to earth subject of running a Reunion Association, or of trying to do so. The various jobs that have to be accomplished are done . . . when they get done . . . by the Officers. That means the President, the Squadron Vice Presidents, Treasurer and committee chairmen. We eliminated the job of Secretary at the Columbus Reunion, which was a serious error. We have to recreate it at the next reunion.

The Reunion Committees under Bob Fain also do a great deal of work, and I'm sure are as busy as Ken McClure and I are. There are many letters to be written, answered, plus a fair number of phone calls from everyone . . . all of which are welcomed.

But what I am coming to is that all



Ben Fridge
President

of this takes dollars and cents . . . not much, but we all must pay our dues, and do so as soon as possible to keep this Reunion Association a viable outfit. If the dues are beyond the reach of anyone, do not send in anything . . . you'll still get *The Strafer*, but it is my suspicion that most have just "put it off."

Please send in your dues if you have not done so. Thanks a million. Many thanks for the word from former crew chiefs. We want to hear from all of you.

Ben Fridge
13905 Rancho Verde Drive
Reno, NV 89511
(702) 851-3207

Charles O. Metzel, V.P.
1019 - 8 Mile Road
Cincinnati, OH 45230
(513) 474-4565

TREASURER'S REPORT

STATEMENT AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1985

INCOME

Interest (Checking Account)	\$ 172.59
Dues (224 Paid)*	3,360.00
Sales Video Tapes (12)	420.00
Life Member Scholarship Fund (71)*	7,100.00
Total	11,052.59
CD's (Interest not included)	-7,100.00
Spendable Income	\$ 3,952.59

*224 + 71 = 225 paid, over 1000 not paid yet!

EXPENSES

Video Tapes (12)	\$ 360.00
Printing (Stationary, etc.)	108.34
Telephone	201.53
Postage Stamps	102.00
Refund 499th (Seed Money-Repay of Advance)	370.00
2 Yr. Expenses (Ben Fridge)	342.00
Donation Air Force Museum	250.00
Newsletter (<i>The Strafer</i>)	2,601.16
Total	\$ 4,335.03

Checking Account as of Jan. 1, 1985	\$ 2,025.28
Income	3,952.59
Total	5,977.87
Expenses	-4,335.03
Checking Account as of October 1, 1985	\$ 1,642.84

BUDGET

Strafer Newsletter	\$ 4,000.00
Telephone	220.00
Postage	300.00
Printing	100.00
Pre-Union Expense	380.00
Total	\$ 5,000.00

As you can see, the largest expense in the budget is the newsletter which we publish four times a year. The expense includes the cost of mailing as well as continually updating the names and addresses on the roster.

Although we have not spent any in-

terest from the Life Membership Scholarship (Jarred Crabb), it is available to cover expenses if needed. It is hoped the reunion will carry itself, but the treasury must advance some monies.

If you have not paid your dues for

Recent Life Memberships (As of October 1, 1985)

HEADQUARTERS

Eppstein, Maury
Pliker, Wardell
Waring (Coltharp), Louise

498th SQUADRON

Goldman, Nathan
Hanson, George
Howard, Lester
Manners, James
McArn, John H.
Rosenbaum, Bert
Rosevear, Charles
York, Avery

(omitted from previous report)

499th SQUADRON

Baker, Richard
Balochko, George
Burger, Claude
Carter, William
Fait, Albert
Salzman, Reiny
Taylor, O. J.

500th SQUADRON

Lovett, Rodger
Whitfield, George

501st SQUADRON

Blackmon, Jeff
Bosworth, Elsworth
Licht, Oscar
Mardis, Charles
Minnick, James
Roberts, Stanley

1985, we can use the money! Remember, \$15.00 X 350 members yields \$5000.00.

Ken McClure, Treasurer

499th SQUADRON

The 499th Squadron has been fer- vishly working on updating and adding to our roster. Your help is needed in several areas.

1. Please notify us if you have moved. The post office charges us for each *Strafer* that is returned, then we must pay an additional fee to forward your mail.

2. Any leads you might have on former members would be greatly appreciated. Send them in, and we will pass them on to **Jerry Murphy** and **Jones Burson**, as they are great in finding new members. I understand that we lost 18 names (moved, no forwarding address or deceased) after the last mailing of *The Strafer*, but gained 21 names (newly found, relocated those who moved with no forwarding address, etc.) on the Group level, giving us a mailing list of about 1300.

Charles L. Schell, V.P.

106 S E Fenway Place
Bartlesville, OK 74006

(918) 335-1592



Reunion Committee

Our Reunion Committee is blessed with good ideas, a dedication to the project, and a "lot of class" from the distaff side. Back row, l to r: Mrs. Dee (George) Musket, Mrs. Louise (B.W.) Goodson, and Mrs. Eloise (Henry) Jepson. Seated, l to r: Mrs. Dorothy (B.W.) King, Ann Bareham, Mrs. Betty (John) Hamner, and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Shuler) Gamble.

498th SQUADRON

The 498th has enjoyed a very active year. Letters, phone calls, correspondence, etc. all helping to bring our roster up to date.

We have received many letters giving us information regarding those members whom we formerly were unable to locate. This has been a great help and we hope all of you continue in this effort. There are still some names missing and also, we have names but cannot locate the person.

A Squadron letter has been formulated and is being distributed among the members.

A 498th party is planned for San Antonio.

Herb Garland of our Squadron has designed and developed a new 345th Bomb Group Jacket Patch. It is a beauty. He used his own funds for design, development and production. Herb says that he is making the patch available to you at \$4.50 each. Write to him at 9740 Flora Ave., Overland, MO 63114.

We have received word of the death of (Lt. Col.) Lloyd W. "Swede" Casselman, a member of the 498th, who flew 50 combat missions at New Guinea and the South Pacific. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Bronze Star for those actions.

From 1946 to 1950 he participated in Polar communication research flights and was the commander of a squadron of three B-29 bombers that

Reunion Report

Enclosed in this issue of *The Strafer* is the questionnaire regarding your intentions for our San Antonio Reunion. We understand that many things in our lives can change between now and the November, 1986 reunion, but we must have some idea of your interest in the various activities so that our committee can continue their planning. Remember, **YOUR ANSWERS ARE NOT A COMMITMENT — THEY ARE FOR PLANNING AND SURVEY PURPOSES ONLY.**

Please return the questionnaire AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. It will help us in finalizing the reunion plans and the costs of the various activities.

We will issue a report on the results of the questionnaire in the next issue of *The Strafer*.

Bob Fain

Reunion Committee Chairman
P. O. Box 388
Mexia, TX 76667
(817) 562-2121

made the first flight over the North Pole. He was awarded the Air Medal for the successful flight, which was to test new developments in long-range radar.

Swede is survived by his wife Sally, sons David and John, his daughter Robin, and his brother Kenneth. We all express our condolences to the Casselman family.

Keep those letters coming!

Henry J. Reynolds, V.P.
Beattie Rd., Box 281
Rock Tavern, NY 12575
(914) 496-5375

Fred Moore, V.P.
4952 Vivaldi Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89102
(702) 871-4405



L to R (back row): Ted Kagles, Jay Moore, Julius Fisher, Bill Cook, Ben Atkins, Ralph Knowles, (front row): Roman Ohnemus and Ed Bina.

501st SQUADRON

Keeping up with the address changes and finding new names is still a big challenge. We hate to see the phone bill come in next month.

Ed Bina recently reported on a mini-reunion that he attended in Michigan.

"It started in 1979 at the 345th Bomb Group Reunion at Colorado Springs. It was also the first time many of us attended the Reunion. With the many activities programmed, we found insufficient time to renew in depth our many cherished friendships made forty years ago. It was then decided to continue renewing our friendships and recalling old times and deciding to meet in Columbus, Ohio to continue our Reunion.

Much food & beverages and sleeping accommodations were furnished by **Jay Moore**, and **Ed Bina** convinced us all we should continue these 'get-togethers.' We further decided to call our get-togethers a 'mini-reunion', and hold them every other year between the 345th Reunion.

In 1981, we stormed the beach at Narragansett, RI and secured **Ted** and **Mary Kagle's** resort for a wonderful few days.

500th SQUADRON

Intense efforts on roster updating and searching for new members has been done during this last quarter. The 500th Bomb Squadron Newsletter has kept all of you posted on the latest activities and news.

In addition, our attention will be given to the rapidly approaching 1986 Reunion in San Antonio.

1983 found us in Ironwood, MI at a ski lodge as guests of **Ralph** and **Sara Knowles**. Again, so much fun was had by all, no one knew there was no snow.

1985 found us at **Julius** and **Margaret Fisher's** home in Oxford, MI, located on Pine Lake. Four of the group arrived in RV's, others by auto and air. A tour of the Chrysler plant and many other activities made our four day 'mini-reunion' again much too short. We all agreed to meet in San Antonio in '86 and begin the wait for the next 'mini-reunion'."

We also received a note from **Bill Cavoli** as follows: "Enclosed is a letter from **Ed Myers** (501st), forwarding a copy of the news item which appeared in his local Greencastle, IN newspaper. This is the only "extra" publicity I've heard of since *The Strafer* highlighted the VJ 40th Anniversary story in its last issue."

(Ed. note: The story of the 345th BG along with anecdotes from (Lt. Col) **J. Edward Myers** was well done by the staff of the Greencastle, IN *Banner Graphic*. It was too long to reprint in *The Strafer*, however. A tip of the hat to Ed Myers for another job well done).

The Bosworths

839 W. 21st Street
San Bernardino, CA 92405
(714) 886-2169

Memorial Bench Fund Short Of Goal

As of October 1, 1985, the Memorial Bench Fund had a total of \$5301.86 on hand. This is a short fall of \$2698.14 which was the original estimated cost to install the four benches.

With winter rapidly approaching, it appeared all work would be suspended until spring. On September 30, I learned that a concrete contractor was building sidewalks at the Air Force Museum. I immediately contacted the contractor and negotiated the installation of the four footers for the benches at a much lower cost than previously estimated, as he was on the site.

Jeff Blackmon was also contacted, and the benches should be in place around November 1, 1985. That was the good news.

The bad news is that simple math shows insufficient funds on hand to complete the project. The Memorial Committee felt that all work should be completed this fall, and the Memorial and grounds ready for spring.

The rest is up to you. We are almost over the hurdle, and your help is needed to complete this project as soon as possible. Remember, your contribution is tax deductible and your gift will make YOU a part of this beautiful Memorial.

Once again, my long time friend, Robert (Bud) Theis (38th B.G.) sent a \$200.00 check to the 345th Memorial Fund to help us out of a "stalled condition—but more importantly, to express my regards to my friends of the 345th."

Send checks to: Ed Bina, Memorial Chairman, 912 W. Main St., Westerville, Ohio 43081.

Ed Bina, Memorial Chairman
(614) 890-0981

Apache Jacket Patch Available

Herb Garland (498th), (who has not missed a reunion), is offering a colorful "345th BOMB GROUP AIR APACHES" jacket patch to all members.

Herb and his wife have personally invested several hundred dollars in the project. The design was done through a computer set-up, and the cloth patch consists of a silver, red and black indian head with white lettering in a circular pattern, all on a black background. It is quite striking in appearance, and is about 4 3/4" diameter.

Herb also mentioned that his Confederate Air Force squadron has a B-25 "with a good looking indian head on the rudders that attracts a lot of people."

You may order your very own 345th BG Air Apaches' jacket patch directly from Herb. To defray the cost and postage, it is available for \$4.50 each. Send your check and your request directly to Herb Garland, 9740 Flora Ave., Overland, MO 63114. (his phone number is (314) 429-4797.

Travel Agency Now On Call

Security Travel Agency, Inc. of Columbus, Ohio is ready to handle the 345th BG travel needs for the San Antonio Reunion.

Security has been specializing in conventions and reunions since 1976. They are one of the biggest customers of the Hyatt, Hilton and Sheraton chains in these fields. Security also has branches in North Carolina and Florida, but the main office in Columbus will be your contact.

Linda Eisenhart, Vice President, will be the direct liaison to the Reunion Committee. Linda is thrilled with this assignment inasmuch as she has been Air Force as long as she can remember. Her father, Col. Eisenhart, served many years in the 8th AF in England.

Ben Spittler, manager of the Columbus office, has assigned Kim Algeo to the San Antonio project. Kim has up-to-date rosters of all members, and is ready to help in travel arrangements, registration, booking of the tours, banquets, etc. that Bob Fain's committee has planned.



Linda Eisenhart



Kim Algeo

In addition to the reunion arrangements, Security is preparing a South Pacific tour for the 345th BG. Preliminary plans include a Royal Viking cruise which would include visits to Sidney, Port Moresby, and Hong Kong. A questionnaire will be distributed to 345th members to research their interest in such a cruise.

For further information, you may PHONE COLLECT (614) 461-8962 and identify yourself as a member of the 345th BG. Kim Algeo will be able to help you with information and serve your travel needs for the San Antonio Reunion.

REUNION

Nov. 12-16, 1986



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

COLUMBUS, OH 43200
PERMIT NO. 2529

La Mansion Del Norte
San Antonio, Texas