



## 43<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association "KEN'S MEN"



July 2015  
131st Edition

### Willing, Able, Ready

#### ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

Our annual reunion will take place this first week of September in Hampton, Virginia. Much work goes into making a reunion happen so I do hope you will all make a big effort to attend. Surprisingly our attendance numbers have been increasing, not decreasing as we had expected, so that is good news indeed. With this in mind, I think we should name *George Anderson* our new Recruitment Officer, or perhaps have him just invite us all to his next family reunion.

*Louise Terrell* has been doing an amazing job gathering and preparing materials for the time capsule. We currently have a small but growing list of items which are quite diverse. In addition to photographs and personal stories, we have a commitment from three authors to donate signed copies of their manuscripts. *Bob Drury* and *Tom Clavin* will be giving us an advanced copy of their book about 'Old 666'. *Clint Hayes* will be sending a signed hard copy of his screen play "Above and Beyond". There is still time, so please send in your item, photo or story, or even your favorite book, whatever speaks to you about your time in the 43rd or what you know of that time in history.

At this reunion we have two exciting events planned in addition to our time capsule. One is a trip to the Hampton Air & Space Museum, which houses a very interactive collection of aviation simulators, radio and communication displays, and aircraft cut outs that allow you to feel like you are "really there". We will have unlimited access to all displays as well as to all IMAX theaters. There will be several presentations customized for our group and lunch will be served.

The second event will be a personally guided tour of NASA by Astronaut *Charles Camarda*; we have a fee associated with this event only due to the fact that we will be providing transportation. If this changes, we will gladly issue refunds. Charles Camarda, being a personal friend of our member George Anderson, has graciously offered to not only show us around but to tell us all about his experience regarding reentry. I suspect his aviation adventures will be quite a bit different than yours!

Senator *Carl Levin*, of Michigan is also on our schedule to address the group. He too is a personal friend of one of our members, *Michael La Vean*, our Assistant Historian. Senator Levin was elected to the Senate in 1978 and most notably served as the

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## ***PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONT'D)***

Chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee. He retired in 2015 after being in public office since 1977.

As you continue with this newsletter, you will read further about these individuals and our planned reunion events. You will find the Reunion Registration Form, hotel reservation information and driving directions in the back of the newsletter. I truly hope you can join us!

We are delighted to say a very Happy 100th Birthday to Art Mulligan. This is a milestone that should not go unremarked and we would love to share a photo in a future newsletter if anyone has one!

And sadly I will end with saying goodbye to Garrett Minnick. Garrett passed away recently just shy of his 100th birthday. Garrett served as a medic during WWII with the 64th Squadron. He and his family were very active at the reunions with Garrett always being ready with an amusing story and a salute. It was a special treat that Garrett was kissed by a General last year after receiving a medal, something he never could have imagined. Our deepest condolences to Garrett's family.

***Susan Clark Lanson***  
***President, 43rd Bomb Group Association***

### ***NEW MEMBER***

Steve Miller, son of **Sidney Miller, 65th Squadron**, and a resident of Parkland, Florida, has become a Lifetime Member of the 43rd Bomb Group Association.

### ***MEMBERSHIP - 43RD BOMB GROUP***

If you wish to become a member of the Association, we ask that you become a Lifetime Member. There is an application form at the back of this newsletter. You can also download a form by clicking on the following link:  
<http://www.kensmen.com/membershipform.pdf>

Please send application and payment, made out to '43rd Bomb Group Association', directly to the Secretary: Louise Terrell, 207 Huron Street, Houghton MI 49931. We thank you in advance for your consideration in joining this great organization.

### ***... AND, HAPPY BIRTHDAY WISHES!!!***

Arthur Mulligan celebrated his 100th Birthday on June 26, 2015 with family and friends. Arthur was a longtime resident of Rosendale and Kingston before retiring to Delray Beach, Florida. He owned and operated Arthur F Mulligan Inc located in Tillson and also served as Mayor, Police Chief and Fire Chief of Rosendale while a resident. He is the oldest surviving World War II member of the 64th Bomb Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group known as "Kens Men" flying as a B-24 pilot in the Pacific Theatre. He was recently honored by the members of the Tillson American Legion Post 1219, and the State and National Commander of the American Legion for his 70 years as a member.



Contributed by: Gary Mulligan, son

#### ***PAST PRESIDENTS***

**Robert Butler**

**1981-1984\***

**George L. White**

**1985-1987\***

**William H. Wilson, Jr.**

**1988-1991\***

**Dale F. Barr, Jr.**

**1992-1993\***

**Max Osborn**

**1994-1995\***

**James T. Murphy**

**1996-1997\***

**Samuel F. Commons**

**1998-1999**

**Max M. Axelsen**

**2000-2001**

**Roger T. Kettleton**

**2002-2003**

**Charles Rauch**

**2004-2005**

**Jim Cherkauer**

**2006-2007**

**James Thompson Jr**

**2008**

**Eldon "Bud" Lawson**

**2009-2010\***

**Arvid J. Hougum**

**2011\***

**Robert R. Richardson**

**2012-2013**

**\*Deceased**

# **HAMPTON, VA 2015** **REUNION**



## **WED: Sept. 02**

Arrival, Sign in & Registration  
8 AM-10PM Daily Hospitality room  
Dinner on your own  
Cocktails provided by Hotel  
6 PM Board Meeting—Board members only

## **THURS: Sept. 03**

Breakfast provided by Hotel  
10:00am Meet in Hospitality Room to leave for tour  
Private Tour of NASA / or Air and Space Museum

Dinner on your own  
Cocktails provided by Hotel

## **FRI: Sept. 04**

Breakfast provided by Hotel  
10:00am Meet in Hospitality Room to leave for tour  
Private Tour of NASA / or Air and Space Museum

Dinner on your own  
7:00pm Meet in Hospitality Room for Door prizes and Open Mic

## **SAT: Sept. 05**

Breakfast provided by Hotel  
12:00am General Meeting & Time Capsule Presentation with Press

Photos to be taken just before Cocktail hour  
6-7 PM Cocktail hour  
7-10:30 PM Farewell Banquet with Guest Speaker

## **SUN: Sept. 06**

Check out

NOTE: NASA Tour & Air & Space tour dates will be determined by host's availability.



## **43rd Bomb Group Reunion**

**AIR & SPACE MUSEUM**  
**With special presentation!**

**Unlimited IMAX, access to simulators, displays**

**Lunch included.**

**Aircraft displays as  
well as modern  
and historic radio  
displays**



**B-24 Cut away &  
working flight  
simulators**



## 43rd Bomb Group Reunion

### **GUEST SPEAKER**

**Senator Carl Levin**



**Senator Levin, MI, is a long time supporter of our Military and Veterans. He most notably served as Chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee.**

The Date of Senator Levin's address will depend upon his availability



## 43rd Bomb Group Reunion

### **PRIVATE NASA TOUR**

**With Astronaut Charles Camarda**



**Charles Camarda will give us a special tour of the NASA facility as well as a presentation about his mission. Charlie is currently working at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia**

The Date of this tour will depend upon his availability



## **FROM OUR VETERANS**

**Jim Cherkauer, 65th Squadron**, wrote that he enjoyed the last newsletter and that, with some increased effort on my part, I might make an acceptable Secretary/Editor for the Association. Jim knows what it takes as he did the job - and did it well - for six years. Jim also assisted your Secretary in understanding and interpreting the interface between the pilot's flight log and her Dad's mission diary. Thanks to Jim for helping to fill in some gaps.

**Bill Perkins, 63rd Squadron**, wrote that he is still working to get his fellow veterans' bios recorded at the WWII Memorial Registry. He was having an access problem with the website; hopefully, he's worked through that as of this date. He also passed on "Good wishes to all".

**Frank Hohmann, 65th and 403rd Squadrons**, let your Secretary know that he found the last newsletter quite enjoyable and also slightly easier to read, possibly because it came to him 'VFR direct' as an email attachment. He also stated that I should just 'tell us old guys to make it a habit to look in Ken's Men (website) every once in a while'. Frank doesn't expect he'll make it to the reunion, but he is already looking forward to reading all about it in the October newsletter.

Along with **Jim Cherkauer**, many thanks to **Jim Dieffenderfer, Wade Kehr, Bob Cooper, John Taylor, Bill Jobe** and others who were instrumental these last several months in helping your Secretary to answer questions that came in either to the Ken's Men website, 43rd Gmail, or directly to your Secretary's email. My thanks to all for your willingness to assist.

## **FROM FAMILY & FRIENDS**

*Including the many individuals you will read about throughout this newsletter, your Secretary had the good fortune to meet online several new folks who have an interest in the 43rd Bomb Group -*

- Pat Bezdek** - daughter of **Jack T Owings, 64th**
- Bob Jobe** - son of **William Jobe, 64th**
- Sandra Smith** - daughter of **Joseph Thompson, 63rd** (KIA 3 Dec 1943)
- Jordy Bennett** - daughter of **Richard Bennett, 65th**
- Christine Wheat** - granddaughter of **Paul Nicholls, 65th**
- Mike Musumeci** - researcher, author and 43rd Lifetime Member from Queensland, Australia
- Steve Miller** - son of **Sidney Miller, 65th**
- Roberta Apple** - daughter-in-law of **Jack Apple, 403rd**
- Chuck Bowen** - nephew of **H.B. 'Billy' Bowen, 65th** (KIA 8 Jan 1943)
- Donald Carter** - son of **Clarence Carter, 403rd**
- Sheila Edwards** - daughter of **Olin Edwards, 403rd**
- Tom Smith** - nephew of **Francis Smith, 403rd** (KIA, 18 May 1945)
- Todd Fisher** - grandson of **Joseph L Wulkowicz, 64th**
- Leo Bloschock** - son of **Leo W Bloschock, 403rd**
- Steve Meinke** - nephew of **Charles G Meinke, 63rd**
- Sylvia Seymour** - daughter of **Paul R Seymour, 403rd**
- Brad Smith** - grandnephew of **Robert F Varner, 63rd** (KIA, 28 Apr 1945)

## TAPS



**Garrett L Minnick**  
**64th Squadron**



CUMBERLAND — Garrett Lamar “Moose” Minnick, 99, of Bowman’s Addition, Cumberland, passed away Sunday, May 24, 2015, to join his late wife and “love and light of my life,” Mary Reckley Minnick, who preceded him in death, March 30, 2009.

Born Oct. 12, 1915, in Cumberland, Mr. Minnick was the son of the late Otis Minnick and Sarah (Hughes) Minnick. Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by a daughter, Karen Minnick Benson; his brothers, Clarence “Tuffy” Minnick; Walter “Fish” Minnick; and Harvey Minnick; his sisters, Lela “Sally” Boyd’ Van Lew “Mickey” Ethington, and Hazel Wratchford Minnick, mother of his daughters.

**Mr. Minnick served as a medic in the South Pacific during World War II. He was a member of the 43rd Bomb Group of the 5th Army Air Corps.** As anyone who knew Moose will tell you, he loved to talk about his years served during World War II. He was transported to the war zone by a British warship and swore he “ate mutton about every day,” and would not eat lamb of any variety for the rest of his life.

**The Bomb Group held a reunion each year, and he looked forward to gathering with old friends at different U.S. Air Force Bases.**

He was an avid reader and a member of the Allegany County Bird Club, and until only recently was active in his church, the Winifred Road Church of Christ. He looked forward to Sunday services and to greeting all the parishioners and his buddy, Carl Eckard, who always gave him a military salute. He was a life member of the National Rifle Association, and charter member of the Bowman’s Addition Fire Department. He was also a member for many years of the Knights of Pythias, The Moose Lodge 271, The V.F.W. and The American Legion.

He eagerly awaited the Times News each day to read Mike Burke’s sports column, and then work the daily crossword puzzle. He would spend hours on his porch in summer and dining room window in winter, watching birds and other wild life in his yard.

Mr. Minnick was all about family and greatly enjoyed gatherings to catch up on extended family and to spin a few yarns about the war years. Most family members had heard the stories many times, and could tell you the next line of each.

He was an ironworker by trade, and if work was not available in the area, he would travel to where the work was. His last ironwork in the Cumberland area before retirement was on the Clarysville Bridge, and for many months, he “hung iron,” as he called it, on the Tappan Zee Bridge in New York. He was a graduate of Allegany High School, Class of 1935, where he was a lettered track and soccer star. He kidded his daughters by wearing his Allegany High sweater bearing the large “A” on front, particularly on Turkey Day, as they and their children were all Fort Hill graduates and followers. On his last birthday, he sported a tee saying “Blue all the way through” just to aggravate them. He thoroughly enjoyed the sports activities of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and attended many of them until the last several years. He was always proud of their many academic achievements.

Moose is survived by his sisters, Annetta Lusiak, Sycamore, Ill., and June Phillips, Cumberland; and his daughters, Marla Gornall and husband, Bob, Sally Jo Mitchell and husband, Mike, Cumberland. He also leaves behind his grandchildren, Lisa Krampf, Morehead City, N.C., Jonna Roy and husband, Brian, Raleigh, N.C., and Davida Lawrence and Diana Henry and husband Mike, Gettysburg, Pa., Sean Harper and wife, Mina, Andi Harper, Tara Rowley and husband, Trinity, all of Cumberland, and his great-grandchildren, Andrew Harper, currently serving in the United States Navy, Jacob, and Trey Harper, Cameron Roy, Emma Rowley, Aidan Harper, Ezra and Zephaniah Harper, Richard Jones and wife, Adria, Brandon and Nikki Lawrence, Karen and Joshua Henry, and a great-great-granddaughter, Alice Jones; and a very special granddaughter, Maria Tozzi Harper.

... Interment will be in the Maryland Veterans Cemetery at Rocky Gap.

We thank God for our greatest blessing, “our Dad!” — Marla and Sally Jo...

Excerpt from: [http://www.times-news.com/obituaries/garrett-l-moose-minnick/article\\_851f1608-03f8-11e5-821b-ob14acaa2afo.html](http://www.times-news.com/obituaries/garrett-l-moose-minnick/article_851f1608-03f8-11e5-821b-ob14acaa2afo.html)

## **TAPS (continued)**

On March 11, 2015, WANDA EVE CASCIO; beloved wife of the late **Paul J. Cascio Jr. (64th Bomb Squadron)**, passed away peacefully. She is survived by children Paul J. Cascio III and his wife Rita, Deborah A. Anderson, and Brian R. Cascio and his wife Dolores; and a host of other relatives and friends. She was devoted to her grandchildren: Greg, T.J., A.J., Valerie, Michael, Christine and Eve. The family will receive friends 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m., Sunday, March 15 at the ECKHARDT FUNERAL CHAPEL, P.A., 11605 Reisterstown Road, Owings Mills, MD, with a Mass of Christian burial being held 11 a.m., Monday, March 16 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 65 Sacred Heart Lane, Glyndon, MD. Private interment will be held at Baltimore National Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

See more at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/baltimoresun/obituary.aspx?pid=174385795#sthash.NKUncktI.dpuf>

*Editor's Note: **Paul J Cascio Jr.**, who passed away in 2007, was the radio operator on B-17E 41-9207, Texas #6, which was shot down on 1 June 1943. Paul was captured and remained a Prisoner of War for 27 months before being liberated in September 1945.*

## **LOOKING FOR LOST CREWMATES**

Pat Bezdek wrote to your Secretary wondering if anyone might have any recollection of her father, **Jack Thomas Owings**, from Springfield Missouri. Jack was a waist gunner in the **64th Squadron** during the timeframe August 1944 to December 1945 and passed away in 2007.

Pat knows that her Dad was on Ie Shima when the Japanese surrendered, but has very little additional information. She is putting together a Time Capsule submission to honor her Dad's service with the 43rd, but is hopeful that someone might be able to fill in some of the gaps in her knowledge of her father's military service. If you have any recollection of Jack Owings, you can reach Pat at [pbezdek@prodigy.net](mailto:pbezdek@prodigy.net) or call her at 417-888-3003.

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Steve Miller, son of **Sidney Miller, 65th Squadron**, has recently been in touch with **Robert 'Jeep' McKechnie, 65th** tail gunner. Steve would like to know if anyone else has any remembrances regarding his father or his father's crew (see photo and names below). If you can provide any information, please contact Steve at [parklandian1@aol.com](mailto:parklandian1@aol.com) or give him a call at 'nine five four - seven seven eight - four eight one one'.



Top, left to right:

Navigator - John W. Cozad

Bombardier - Robert E. May,

Pilot - Don LeMoine,

CoPilot - Ken Garlapo

Bottom, left to right:

Ball Turret Gunner - Jim

Armorer - Dick Leake

Tail Gunner - Robert "Jeep" McKechnie

Waist Gunner - Joe

Radio Operator - **Sidney Miller**

Engineer— John Foyster

These men, the LeMoine crew, were together for eight months. They trained at Chatham AFB in Savannah where this picture was taken. They flew a B-24 to the Pacific in early August 1945

## **“MAKE MISSION” “RUCK UP” “LAST CALL” SUBMIT NOW TO THE 43RD BOMB GROUP TIME CAPSULE**

No matter how you say it, the time is **NOW** to make your contribution to the Time Capsule - we very much want every Ken's Men possible to be honored and remembered in this way as part of our recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Activation of the 43rd Bomb Group at Langley Field, Virginia.

At this year's reunion, September 2d - September 5th in Hampton, VA, the 43rd will be loading a Time Capsule which is to be opened 75 years from now. Any member of the 43rd, or a friend or family member, can place items that you believe will help the historians of the future better understand the Ken's Men story.

Items you might submit are written memoirs, personal letters, squadron patches, pictures, diaries, and other artifacts; though you can contribute originals, we would be happy with copies or scanned images as well. Items will be inventoried and photographed or scanned before being sealed in the Time Capsule.

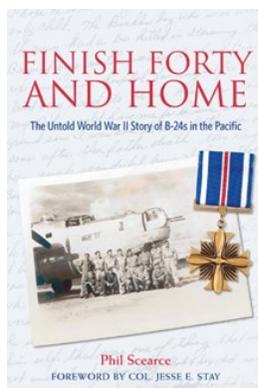
Special thanks again to Tracy Tucciarone who, along with managing the entire Ken's Men website, continues to keep the Time Capsule approved postings up to date. See those and other details at <http://www.kensmen.com/timecapsule.html>

Time is short! Don't let a Ken's Men go unrecognized - You can email to [secretary43bgroup@gmail.com](mailto:secretary43bgroup@gmail.com) with any questions or to submit items electronically. Please have your items to the Secretary not later than 15 August so she can scan, print, record and box as necessary. The **Time Capsule Submission Form** is on the website and at the back of this newsletter.



## **BOOK RECOMMENDATION FINISH FORTY AND HOME BY PHIL SCEARCE**

### ***The Untold World War II Story of B-24s in the Pacific***



sites.

*Finish Forty and Home*, by Phil Searce, is the true story of the men and missions of the 11th Bombardment Group as it fought alone and unheralded in the South Central Pacific, while America had its eyes on the war in Europe. The book opens with Sgt. Herman Searce, the author's father, lying about his age to join the Army Air Corps at 16. The narrative follows Searce through training and into combat with his new crewmates, including pilot Lt. Joe Deasy, whose last-minute transfer from training duty thrusts the new crew into the squadron commander's role.

*(from the flap)*  
“During the early years of World War II in the Pacific theatre, against overwhelming odds, young American airmen flew the longest and most perilous bombing missions of the war. They faced determined Japanese fighters without fighter escort, relentless anti-aircraft fire with no deviations from target, and thousands of miles of over-water flying with no alternative landing

After bombing Nauru, the squadron moves on to bomb Wake Island, Tarawa, and finally Iwo Jima. These missions bring American forces closer and closer to the Japanese home islands and precede the critical American invasions of Tarawa and Iwo Jima. The 42nd Squadron's losses through 1943 were staggering: 50 out of 110 airmen killed.

Phil Searce explores the context of the war and sets the stage for these daring missions, revealing the motivations of the men who flew them: to finish forty combat missions and make it home again. He based his story upon substantial research at the Air Force Historical Research Agency and the National Archives, interviews with surviving airmen, and interviews and correspondence with the survivors of men who were lost. His is the first book to document America's bomber offensive in the early days of the Pacific War.”

Taken from: [http://www.amazon.com/dp/1574413163/?tag=googhydr-20&hvadid=33815423395&hvpos=1t3&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=9702743443442072069&hvpone=29.95&hupt-o=&hvqmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd\\_sl\\_3yxicqv25z\\_b](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1574413163/?tag=googhydr-20&hvadid=33815423395&hvpos=1t3&hvexid=&hvnetw=g&hvrnd=9702743443442072069&hvpone=29.95&hupt-o=&hvqmt=b&hvdev=c&ref=pd_sl_3yxicqv25z_b)

## ***Returning a Japanese 'Good Luck' Flag***

*Contributed by Christine Wheat*

Some years ago I became aware of a Japanese flag among the possessions of my Grandad, Paul L. Nichols. I had never seen this flag before but my Mom had actually taken it to school as a "Show and Tell" item. After Grandad passed away last August, I began sorting through his items in order to help my own grief process, to better understand such a complex man, and to decide how best to share his collections. I became curious about this unique flag, made of silk, covered in Japanese writing, punctured with holes and spattered with what appeared to be blood. Grandad had referred to this flag in his War memoir "My Lucky Dice" as a 'Japanese Combat Flag covered with graffiti with a two inch shell hole in it' and said he had traded a Japanese rifle he had obtained for it, making an exchange with a soldier he met while stationed in Leyte.

I began my search for information and one thing led to another. I discovered that the flag was not a battle flag as Grandad believed, but actually a prayer or "Good Luck" flag called a Yosegaki Hinomaru, signed by a Japanese soldier's friends and family to send him with their well wishes and prayers as he deployed. Each Japanese soldier would carry their flag with them everywhere, folded neatly in the breast pocket, in the belief that it embodied the spirits of his loved ones. These flags became favored souvenirs of US Soldiers due to their portability and availability.

Further research led me to a non-profit organization called OBON 2015, headed up by a husband and wife team who are devoted to researching the writing on surrendered Yosegaki Hinomaru flags to discover the soldier's name and geographical origins and then facilitate the return of flags to surviving family members. Their hope in doing this is to foster peace and promote healing, with a special focus on this year - the 70th Anniversary of the end of the War.

After researching OBON 2015 and familiarizing myself with their policies, I gathered our family and explained the special significance of the flag. We unanimously decided to return the flag to Japan, believing that it should be with the Japanese family, if they could be found. We felt that we had plenty of mementos to remember Grandad by that spoke to us more personally. We also felt it very likely that the Japanese soldier's family might not have anything of his, and it rightly belonged to them. Any monetary worth is far outweighed by the significance of the flag to the Japanese people.

With my family's support, I contacted Rex and Keiko Ziak with OBON 2015. They explained to me and my parents the process and how they diligently research each flag through a panel of language experts based in Japan, looking for clues to the owner and his origins. The Japanese characters in use at the time are sometimes difficult to interpret. They also explained their policy of requiring that the flag be unconditionally surrendered and in their physical possession before they start the research process as there have been instances of flags being offered but then withdrawn, disappointing the Japanese family. We felt very comfortable with proceeding after this call and I prepared the flag to make its return home. I enclosed several pictures of Grandad during the War years as well as more recent ones, pictures of our family, and a brief description of how he came about having the flag and our hopes for the family in returning it.

When surrendering the flag to OBON 2015, we chose to receive updates as the researchers made discoveries, eagerly anticipating any information they could uncover. By mid April we knew not only the Soldier's name and hometown, but OBON had actually spoken to his sole surviving family member, a younger sister. She related how this young man was drafted at the age of 15 years, leaving his widowed mother and two younger sisters. The mother passed away six years ago at the age of 100, followed by the other sister. The surviving sister is in her 80's now and had nothing to remember her brother by, so is very pleased to be receiving his flag. Rather than simply have it mailed to her, she has requested a Ceremonial return in their local Shrine performed by a Priest. Rex and Keiko will travel to Japan this summer and hand deliver our flag as they are returning 70 flags to commemorate this 70th anniversary. The returning ceremony for our flag is scheduled for August 10th. The significance of that week in August - 70 years after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki - seems to really bring this whole process full circle.

(article continued on next page)



Our family also participated in the filming of a Japanese documentary being produced by NTV (their equivalent of CNN) detailing the return of these flags to Japan and the work of OBON 2015, which is slated to air in August. My mother and I were interviewed and video was taken of the flag as well as Grandad's book, photos, and other items. I'd like to think he would be pleased to know how we've honored him in all of this, and how his keeping the flag safe for all of these years can now, not only bring healing and peace to the Japanese people, but also bring awareness of this cause to others who may have flags in their possession. Our hope is that many more flags will be returned to their rightful owners before all those who remember from both sides of the War are gone. Anyone wishing to contact Rex and Keiko regarding returning a flag may visit their website at <http://obon2015.com/english/> which details the process and also gives more information about the significance of the flags. We have found them to be extremely helpful and professional in all of our dealings with them and can recommend them without hesitation.



Lt Paul Nichols  
1944

Thank you and God bless you all!  
Christine Wheat



Christine is the granddaughter of the late **Lt Paul L. Nichols, 65th Squadron**, who proudly served as co-pilot on Capt Tom Scannell's crew. If you have questions regarding this article, you can reach Christine at [cwheatrn@aol.com](mailto:cwheatrn@aol.com)

## ***NEW BOOK TO BE RELEASED***

*A Note from Michael Musumeci*

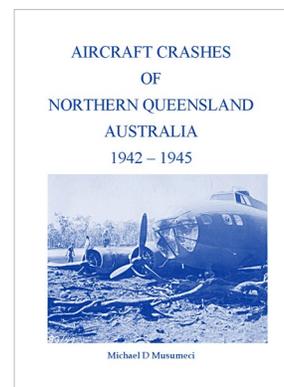
Hi 43rd Bomb Group Association members,

Just wanted to advise all members that the book titled "Aircraft Crashes of Northern Queensland Australia 1943 - 1945" is soon to be released. It is hoped that books will be available in late July 2015.

Following on from my first book titled "Iron Range Air Base - Carved in the Cape York Jungle 1941-1945", this book is dedicated to a collection of 50 compelling aircraft crashes and mishaps historically documented that occurred throughout Far North Queensland, Australia during World War II. The compilation gives a rare insight into researched documents, official reports, witness statements, veterans recollections, memories, family histories and information from descendants of the lost. Also included are a number of rare photographs of the aircraft and of those who lost their lives in these tragic circumstances. Many of these photographs, found in family homes, have never been released.

The severe loss of so many, documented in this book, is a sheer tragedy to so many generations. Every effort has been made to ensure their memories live on for future generations, to ensure the Far North Queensland history is never forgotten and that all are remembered with the utmost of honour, respect and dignity. For they all paid the supreme sacrifice for our enduring freedom. They will be forever remembered.

Michael Musumeci  
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Australia 4880  
[Michael.musumeci@bigpond.com](mailto:Michael.musumeci@bigpond.com)



*Editor's note: Michael is a Lifetime Member of the 43rd Bomb Group Association and played a key role in ensuring recognition of the Hoomalimali and its crew which crashed in Mareeba in 1943. There is a video of the dedication ceremony that honored both this crew from the 43rd as well as Lt Dean Hoevet, 19th Bomb Group:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WkT\\_ZXmjiA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WkT_ZXmjiA)

## ***Lt Ervin Miskin Crew***

**Wade Kehr, 403rd Squadron**, was happy to respond to questions posed by Michael Musumeci regarding the **Lt Miskin** crew; they are posed in the image below in front of Stuggots 1st. Three of these men (names in **BOLD**) were later lost in the crash of Pickled Peach, 42-73483.

Per Wade, although the crew posed in front of this aircraft, he has no record of having flown any missions in it and is not sure that Stuggots 1st was assigned to the 403rd. If anyone has information on Stuggots 1st, *to include full tail number and Squadron*, please send a note to your Secretary.



Standing, Left to Right:

SSgt James T Prather, Nose Gun; SSgt Edward P Driscoll, Tail Gun; **TSgt Royal N Greiner, Eng/Top Gun;**  
**TSgt Frank D Brumm, Radio/Waist Gun;** SSgt Wade T Kehr, Waist Gun/Photo; SSgt Warren Schaeffer, Belly Gun

Kneeling, Left to Right:

Lt Hayden P Clark, CoPilot; **1LT Ervin N Miskin, Pilot;** 1Lt Wayne H Tindall, Bombardier; (not in photo: 1Lt Orley D Caudhill, Navigator)

## ***LOOKING FOR A FULL TAIL NUMBER, AIRCRAFT #358***

Tom Smith, nephew of **Francis J 'Buddy' Smith, 65th Squadron**, has been sharing emails with your Editor regarding his Uncle and the 18 May '45 incident in which he was killed in action. The pilot was Lt James J Franklin and the aircraft was #358.

We are hoping someone can contact us with a full tail number for that aircraft, possibly recorded in a diary or logbook.

## ***The Search for General Walker: New Insights***

*By Richard L. Dunn*

*Excerpt from an article in Air Power History, Fall 2014 Edition*

“Brig. Gen. Kenneth Newton Walker, one of the architects of the prewar plan for strategic air war in Europe, and commanding general Fifth Bomber Command, went missing in action on January 5th, 1943, on an unescorted daylight bombing mission to Rabaul, New Britain. The B-17F in which the general flew, Walker, and the crew have never been found. He remains one of the highest ranking unrecovered officers lost in air combat in World War II...

Most military historians have heard of the Battle of the Bismarck Sea and understand that it was seminal event in the history of air power. Most air power historians are aware of the airlift of Australian troops to Wau, New Guinea, which helped turn back a Japanese offensive in early 1943. General Walker’s January 1943 mission to Rabaul targeted a Japanese convoy prior to the one in the Bismarck Sea Battle, was the first of a series of operations that thinned out Japanese reinforcements so that they were unsuccessful against Wau, led to the Bismarck Sea Battle, and, was part of turning the tide in the Pacific. The importance of action against the first Lae convoy and accurate details of Walker’s mission are hard to find in published accounts that cover events of this period...

General George C. Kenney, Allied air commander and commanding general of the U.S. Fifth Air Force, laid plans to intercept and wreck the predicted convoy. He ordered a brief stand down from bomber operations to provide for rest and maintenance of his heavy bomber force. He ordered General Walker, his bomber commander, to prepare a maximum effort to strike Rabaul shipping on the morning the convoy was to sail. A coordinated strike with B-17s and B-24s flying from Port Moresby with another force of B-24s flying from Australia totaling more than twenty bombers would be the largest force ever to hit Rabaul in daylight. In recent months the Fifth Air Force had avoided attacks on Rabaul in full daylight. Most attacks took place at night with an occasional bomber completing its attack after dawn. Kenney directed that the bombers strike in the early morning...

But things did not go as directed. Walker disagreed with Kenney about an early morning attack. That would require a night take off and also make it unlikely his bomber force would arrive over the target in a compact formation. Walker ordered an attack for midday and, as he had done before, further ignored Kenney’s wishes by going on the mission himself. The B-24s flying from Iron Range, Australia never made the trip due to bad weather. A small advance force of B-17s detailed for an airfield attack preceded the main force. The main force headed toward Rabaul in a formation consisting of six B-17s of the 43rd BG and six B-24s of the 90th BG. The B-17s carried 500-lb. bombs and the B-24s one thousand pounders...

Available records are far from comprehensive but it is certain that the American bombers never fully reformed in a 12-plane formation and it is also certain the lead bomber, Walker’s was not the first to leave the target area. Consistent with Nagai’s Japanese press report and American accounts at least Walker’s B-17 and some others lagged behind the main formation. Reports indicate a B-17 circled the harbor at lower than attack altitude before attempting to rejoin the formation. This was probably Walker’s bomber observing and photographing bombing results. Some accounts suggest Walker’s bomber had been damaged by AA fire but there is no way to verify this and the delayed AA reaction makes it less than likely. Walker’s bomber may have appeared in distress merely because it was the lead bomber but left the target below and behind the other bombers...

The Japanese did not get away unscathed... The American bombers did not get away unscathed either. The B-17F with General Walker, Maj. Jack Bleasdale, executive officer of the 43rd BG, and pilot Major Allen Lindberg, commander of the 64th BS on board was last seen entering clouds pursued by Japanese fighters with an engine on fire. The B-17, No. 41-24458 named San Antonio Rose, never returned and its wreckage and the body of General Walker have never been found. Captured documents and other information indicate that Bleasdale and co-pilot Capt. Benton Daniel bailed out inland from Wide Bay, were eventually captured but their subsequent fate is unknown and they were unlikely to have survived captivity. Most of the bombers had received some hits from the reportedly “inexperienced” and uneager attacks. At least one badly damaged bomber was in distress as it made the homeward flight.”

*Special thanks to Douglas Walker, son of BrigGen Kenneth Walker, for this contribution. Please read the full article, to include insights on where B-17 41-24458, San Antonio Rose, and its crew may have crashed:*

<http://www.kennethwalker.org/pdf/air-power-history-walker.pdf>



## ***43rd Bomb Group - Prisoners of War***

Your Secretary did some rather quick online research regarding men from the 43rd who may have been held as prisoners of war. Based on a look across seven different online sites, as many as 28 men from the 43<sup>rd</sup> have some online source showing potential time in captivity. Four of the sites queried look to have pulled their data from the same sources (or even from each other); those four sites – one of which is the National Archives and Records Administration – have documented 10 of the 43rd's men as POWs as of this date; these names are in **RED**.

The 8 men noted as having survived captivity are since deceased.

### ***B-17F 41-2445, San Antonio Rose 5 Jan 1943***

**BLEASDALE JACK W**  
DANIEL BENTON H  
FRASER WILLIAM G JR

### ***B-17F 41-24454, Georgia Peach 23 Feb 1943***

MIRARCHI ARTHUR

### ***B-17F 41-24518, Reckless Mountain Boys 7 May 1943***

**ETHERIDGE JAMES E, Survived Captivity**  
FRITZ JOHN E  
**HEICHEL BYRON L, Survived Captivity**  
KURISKO FRANK L  
MANGETT MARCUS L Jr  
**RUCKS BERRY T Jr, Survived Captivity**  
**SURRETT CLARENCE G, Survived Captivity**  
VETTER KENNETH P

### ***B-17E 41-9011***

**21 May 1943**  
BUJOLD WILLIAM ALFRED  
BURNSIDE ERNEST W  
GEORGE ROBERT E  
MULLIGAN JOHN J  
NEUMANN LESLIE W

### ***B-17E 41-9244, Honi Kuu Okele 21 May 1943***

**AGUIRRE RICHARD U**  
CURRY ROBERT A  
RIPPY JOHN S

### ***B-17E 41-9207, Texas #6 1 Jun 1943***

**CASCIO PAUL J JR, Survived Captivity**  
FOX THOMAS H  
GREEN CHARLES H JR  
NAUMANN ERNEST A

### ***B-17F 41-24454, Georgia Peach 13 Jun 1943***

**BEK PHILIP L**  
**WISENER JACK KING, Survived Captivity**

### ***B-17F 41-24448, Taxpayer's Pride 26 Jun 1943***

**GRIFFIN JOEL WAYNE 'JACK', Survived Captivity**

### ***B-17E 41-2430, Naughty But Nice 26 Jun 1943***

**HOLGUIN JOSE L, Survived Captivity**

Based on this online research, all men from the 43<sup>rd</sup> appear to have been taken into captivity during a single six month period, between 5 January 1943 and 26 June 1943. Reasons for men being taken into captivity during these specific six months and, possibly, ONLY during these six months, might include that New Britain - where many missions were during this time - was under complete Japanese control and they likely had help from residents in finding downed airmen. Additionally, missions over land provided greater opportunity for survival (and potential capture) after bailing or ditching.

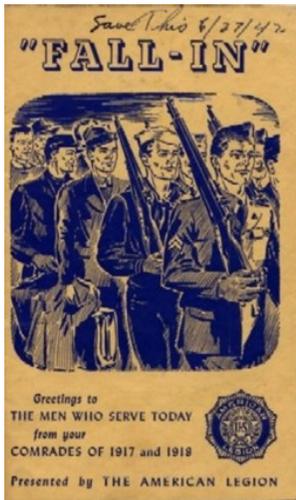
Your Secretary would appreciate any thoughts or remembrances, especially from of our Veterans, regarding prisoners of war from the 43rd Bomb Group.



## **LOST ... AND FOUND AGAIN**

### **Highlighting Wartime Memorabilia**

The Booklet, "**FALL-IN**" — Greetings to THE MEN WHO SERVE TODAY from your COMRADES OF 1917 and 1918. Presented by the AMERICAN LEGION



From Collection of  
**Bill Voght, 64th Squadron**

An excerpt from the Foreword of **FALL-IN**:

“This booklet could properly be titled “Letters from a soldier father to his soldier son.” It is a welcome to comradeship from the members of the American Legion to those young men who are just now entering upon the greatest experience of their lives. They have become Service Men in the Armed Forces of the United States. ...

Members of The American Legion, without exception, wore the uniform of the United States with outstanding honor during the Great War, now sometimes termed World War I. They were honorably discharged after the emergency but they have never ceased to serve their country. They have displayed great interest in the problems of their country; they have manifested that interest at all times by serving in peace as they served in war. ...

*But now we are at war. Our Nation has been attacked and what was not accomplished toward the building of an adequate national defense is water over the dam. We are starting NOW to Build - to Build for the preservation of Freedom and the Homes we love. ...*

For these reasons we offer you this information culled from our own memorable experiences of 23 years ago.”

*Lynn U. Stambaugh*  
National Commander

## **B-10 JACKET, 65th SQUADRON**



Though he has no relatives who served with the 43rd, Matthew Morlok graciously shared this find with your Secretary through the Ken's Men website. “I actually picked up the jacket, a B-10 Jacket, at an auction in 2012. It has been hanging in my collection since then, but I recently decided to ‘Get it out there’ for others to see! I think it is absolutely beautiful, even in its worn-out & salty condition.

From what I have gathered, the B-10 was the replacement for the leather jackets, although both were widely used during WW2, with the cloth B-10 being less common.”

Matthew would love to hear from any of our veterans who might remember this style jacket or have one of their own that they'd like to show off. You can reach Matthew at

[moto-stella@hotmail.com](mailto:moto-stella@hotmail.com)



## ***A Final Resting Place***

### ***Fort Scott National Cemetery - Kansas***

The men listed below, assigned to the **65th Squadron, 43rd Bomb Group**, were casualties of WWII. Eleven men from ten different States, their remains now rest in a single grave at Fort Scott National Cemetery. They are the **crew of B-24J 44-40980, 'Barbara Jean'**, which was lost on 3 June 1945 while on a mission to Formosa.

***Cpl Darmond E Carter, MO      Sgt Walter M Frounfelker, PA      Lt Harry A Skinner, Jr, CA***  
***Lt Frank L Chisman, IA      Lt Samuel H McChesney, Jr, VA      Lt Edward F Weishan, WI***  
***Cpl Rudolph De Laurentis, PA      SSgt Charles D Mueller, MD      Sgt Charles W Yark, NY***  
***Sgt Herbert A Frey, IL      SSgt William H Simmons, AZ***

“Fort Scott National Cemetery is located on the outskirts of the city of Fort Scott, KS, midway between Fort Leavenworth, KS, and Fort Gibson, OK, on the route historically known as the Military Road. The fort was established in 1842 and named for Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, then General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army. The fort’s primary purpose was to maintain a three-way peace among Native American tribes forcibly relocated from Florida and the East, local tribes, and incoming white settlers. Troops guarded caravans on the Santa Fe Trail and patrolled the frontier territory.

By 1853, boundaries of the American frontier extended farther west and the need for a military garrison at Fort Scott diminished...

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Fort Scott was rebuilt and it once again became an important military post. The fort served as a concentration center for troops and a large storage facility for supplies intended for the use of Union soldiers fighting in the South. The 1st Kansas Colored Infantry, one of the Union Army’s African-American regiments, was assigned to Fort Scott in 1863. The unit took part in five engagements and suffered more casualties than any other Kansas regiment. For a short period after the Civil War, the Army continued to use the fort as a base to monitor and handle the movements of displaced Native Americans to the western territories. However, as new military posts were established farther west, Fort Scott was again abandoned in 1873--this time permanently.

During the 1840s, the Army established a cemetery on the west side of town to accommodate the burial of soldiers who died while stationed at the Fort Scott garrison. In 1861, town officers and citizens of Fort Scott purchased approximately four acres southeast of the old post for use as a community burying ground. After the start of the Civil War, the new cemetery was used for the interment of soldiers stationed at Fort Scott. When Congress approved the creation of national cemeteries in 1862, the cemetery became one of 14 national cemeteries to be designated or established as such that year. On Nov. 15, 1862, the cemetery and an adjoining tract were designated as Fort Scott National Cemetery.

After the war’s end in 1865, the remains of those buried in the old military cemetery, as well as other soldiers buried in the vicinity, in Missouri and Kansas, were re-interred at Fort Scott National Cemetery. Following the close of the Indian Wars and resettlement of Native Americans, the Army closed or consolidated many of its small military outposts in the West. As a result, between 1885 and 1907, the federal government vacated numerous military post cemeteries, such as Fort Lincoln, Kansas, and re-interred the remains at Fort Scott National Cemetery.

Eugene Fitch Ware, a noted Kansas poet, is buried in Grave 1 in the heart-shaped section of the cemetery. Ware served in the 7th Iowa Cavalry during the Civil War and was based at Ft. Scott. Also interred at Fort Scott National Cemetery are the remains of 16 Native American soldiers--all privates in the Indian Regiments of the Union Army who served as invaluable scouts.

Fort Scott National Cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.”  
See more at: <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/ftscott.asp>



### ***REMEMBERING THEIR SACRIFICE***



### ***DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?***

If you did not receive email notice of publication of this Newsletter, we do not have your email address on file. The 43rd is using email more, as a means of reaching out both for notice of Newsletter publication and for Association announcements. Please update your contact information today.

For changes or to be added to our contact list, email [43bgroup@gmail.com](mailto:43bgroup@gmail.com) Please be sure to include your first and last name in the Subject line of the email.



## **PACIFIC AIR WAR ARCHIVE 43RD BOMB GROUP DURING WORLD WAR II**

***See us at: [www.pacificairwar.org](http://www.pacificairwar.org)***

### ***RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE KEN'S MEN WEBSITE***

- **64<sup>th</sup> Squadron**, photo of **Lt Henry 'Hank' J. Domagalski crew** in front of Lucky Lucille, contributed by **Bill Jobe, 64th Squadron**: <http://www.kensmen.com/luckyLucille23.html>
- **65th Squadron**, collection of photos belonging to **Lt Dorwin Graham**, pilot, contributed by grandson Nate Graham: <http://www.kensmen.com/dorwin1.html>
- **63rd Squadron**, photo of **SGT Robert Varner**, contributed by his grandnephew, Brad Smith: <http://www.kensmen.com/varner.html>

### ***HELP US IN MAKING THIS NEWS - PROVIDE YOUR STORIES***

This newsletter is published four (4) times a year - mid-month in January, April, July and October. We want this newsletter to be for and about our membership and to cover your areas of interest. Please send items for the newsletter to: Louise Terrell, 207 Huron Street, Houghton MI 49931 or via email to: [secretary43bgroup@gmail.com](mailto:secretary43bgroup@gmail.com)

Any material received after the 1st of the month in which the newsletter is being published may not make the upcoming newsletter.

**MISSION ORDER !**



# 43rd Bomb Group 2014 Reunion REGISTRATION

DATE	EVENT	COST per Person	QTY	TOTAL
	REGISTRATION FEE per person .....	75.00	_____	_____
	Non Refundable		_____	_____
Thurs 9-03	Tour of either NASA or Air/Space ...	45.00	_____	_____
Fri 9-04	Tour of either NASA or Air/Space ...	45.00	_____	_____
	Prize Night in Hospitality Room.....	N/C	_____	_____
Sat 9-05	Photo Book, 75 Ann. hard bound....	25.00	_____	_____
	Cocktail Hour & Banquet w/speaker ..	75.00	_____	_____
<b>TOTALS</b>				

Please make check payable to Rick Lloyd / 43rd Bomb Group Association  
**Mail check and your completed form to:**

Louise Terrell  
207 Huron Street, Houghton, MI 49931

For more information call:  
Susan Clark Lanson: (727) 641-1332 *or*  
Nancy Solomon: (941) 966-9212

Name.....Spouse.....

Address .....

Phone.....Email.....

Squadron..... Ck Total..... Please list all guests separately:

.....  
.....  
.....

**WE WILL BE UNABLE TO ACCOMMODATE WALK IN ENTRY TO ANY EVENTS**



## 43rd Bomb Group Reunion

September 02—06th, 2015

Cut off date: August 15th, 2015

Group Room Rate:

Superior King \$119.00

Deluxe Double \$119.00



**EMBASSY  
SUITES**  
by HILTON™

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
Hampton Roads –Hotel, Spa &  
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1700 Coliseum Drive, Hampton,  
VA 23666

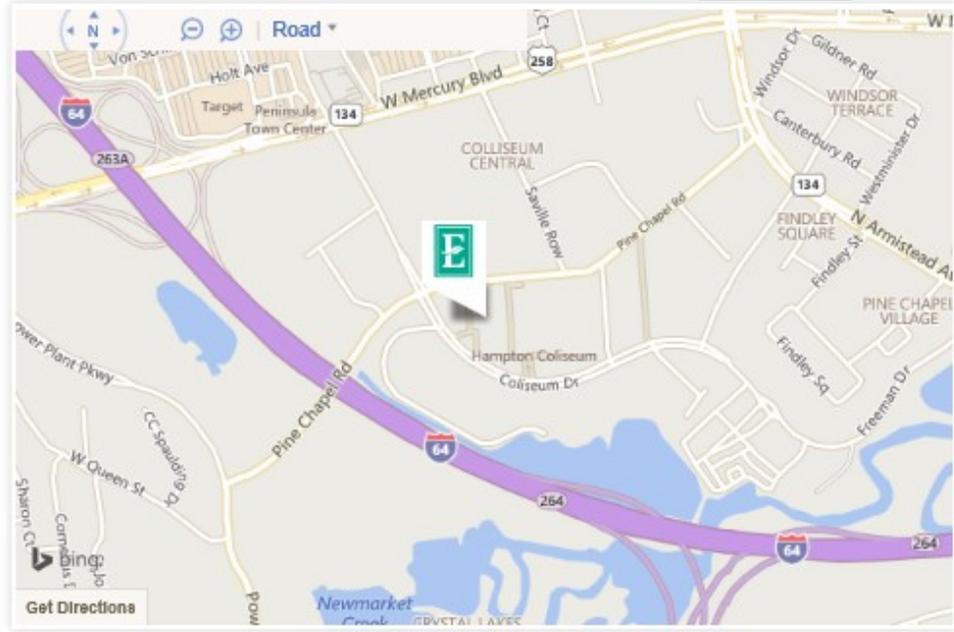


For Reservations

(757) 213-8520 or [www.embassysuiteshampton.com](http://www.embassysuiteshampton.com)

**Refer to the 43rd Bomb Group to receive group rate!**

- Blocks from Air & Space Museum
- Complimentary daily Breakfast & Evening Cocktails
- Complimentary Shuttle service upon request



**Directions from the Hotel Staff**

From I-64 West - Take Exit 263 to Mercury Boulevard - take the overpass ramp towards Coliseum Drive - ramp becomes Mercury Boulevard - at the first traffic light make a right onto Coliseum Drive - hotel is less than a half mile on the left.

From I-64 East - Take Exit 263B Hampton Coliseum - exit ramp becomes Mercury Boulevard - at first traffic light make a right onto Coliseum Drive - hotel is less than a half mile on the left.

From Norfolk International Airport - Follow the same directions as I-64 West.

From I-664 - Take I-64 West - then follow the same directions as I-64 West.

**FROM THE AIRPORT**

**Newport News/Williamsburg International**

**Directions**

Exit Airport and take I-64 E to Exit 263 to Mercury Boulevard, turn right at the first traffic light onto Coliseum Drive.

**Distance from Hotel:**

10 mi.

**Drive Time:**

15 min.

**Norfolk International Airport**

**Directions**

Exit Airport and take I-64 W to Exit 263B to Mercury Boulevard, turn right at the first traffic light onto Coliseum Drive.

**Distance from Hotel:**

18 mi.



**43rd Bomb Group (H) Time Capsule Submission  
Commemorating  
The 75th Anniversary of the 43rd's Activation at Langley Field, Virginia**



**Full Name and Rank of 43rd Bomb Group Member**

---

**Serial Number** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where Born (City and State)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates Assigned to 43rd** \_\_\_\_\_ **Assigned Squadron** \_\_\_\_\_

**Duties While with the 43rd** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Name of Person Submitting Item & Relationship to 43rd BG Member (self, spouse, son, niece, etc.)**

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**Description of Item(s) Donated to the Time Capsule** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Significance of Item(s), Personally and/or Professionally** \_\_\_\_\_

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- Please submit this form and your items to:  
Louise Terrell, 207 Huron Street, Houghton MI 49931, NLT 30 August 2015
- Contact Louise through email at lterrell5@verizon.net or by phone at 703-999-3542 with any questions or to provide notification that your item(s) are being sent
- If you want to keep originals of items, documents, etc, please make and forward only copies



**43<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association  
Ken's Men  
Membership Form**



**Mail to: Louise Terrell  
207 Huron Street  
Houghton, MI 49931**

**Dues: \$100.00/Lifetime Membership**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**If you or your relative are a 'Ken's Men' from WWII:**

Name of Ken's Men \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Duty in the 43rd \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

**If you are not a 'Ken's Men': Are you related to a Ken's Men, a friend of a Ken's Men, an aviation enthusiast, history buff, or other? What is your interest in the 43rd Bomb Group?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*We welcome your interest in our distinguished organization, its purpose of preserving our unit's history and the spirit of its efforts in attaining victory in the Pacific Theater during WWII. As a member of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group Association, you will automatically be added to our mailing / email list unless otherwise instructed.*