



The 461st

Liberaider



Vol. 3, No. 1

NOVEMBER 1986

SOMEWHERE IN THE USA

ED SPETMAN DID IT!

The 461st Bomb Group (H) 1943-1945, Inc., was duly organized under the Iowa Non-Profit Corporation Act on November 22, 1985.

The By-Laws have been reviewed by your Board of Directors and the Internal Revenue Service. At this time, the papers are now being signed into final form by the Board.

A complete copy of the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws will be printed in the Roster that we will publish in the near future. This roster will be furnished to all voting members.

ARTICLE III covers Membership and is published for your information at this time. "Membership in this organization shall be open to all who were Members of, or attached to, the 461st Bomb Group (H) during wartime. Spouses, widows, or widowers of those who served in the 461st Bomb Group (H) during wartime are eligible for membership. All other persons interested in goals of this organization may become associate members. Associate members may attend meetings and other activities and will receive the organization mailings. Associate members may not vote. The membership year shall be the calendar year for all members."

The above actions were made possible through the efforts of Ed Spetman, our Secretary/Treasurer, and the legal assistance of men not associated with this organization but are interested in our aims and goals. Again, the thanks of the Group to Ed and all his helpers!

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BOARD REPORT:

The By-Laws received the majority of our efforts. Other ideas that are being considered are:

- Search and Rescue for missing members.
- Mini-Reunions on our Activation Date (July 1).
- Roster showing members by:
 - Sec. 1—Current mailing list.
 - Sec. 2—Mailing list by Zip Code.
 - Sec. 3—Home Town or by Serial No.
 - Sec. 4—Deceased Members.
- Reunion sites for 1987, 1989, and 1991.
- Let's hear from you—contact YOUR Squadron Director.

MINI-REUNION—Remember that Buddy that you promised to write to real soon? He would like to hear from you NOW!



OUR BIRD!

Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX is the home of B-24 No. 44-51228. This is the only known survivor of our years in Italy. Assigned to the 765th, it flew 35 missions before returning to the States in 1945.

The plane is painted with the 765th cowl (white), 461st red tail marking and a big No. 39 on its side. There is no nose art. My information is that in January of 1945 no individual crews were assigned to any AC. Case Bonebreak showed me his log and I believe one was in No. 39. Norm Hallett also remembers this ship.

After the war the ship saw duty as part of the Icing Research Project.

We would like to know who flew the ship back to the US if possible.

Anyone passing thru San Antonio should make an effort to see the ship that received so MANY words about its merits!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BALANCE IN ACCOUNT AS OF 9-30-85	\$1,817.71
INCOME:	
Interest on account	\$58.99
Contributions	200.00
Dues Paid	72.05
Income from Pin Sale	33.00
Benton Memorial	25.00
TOTAL INCOME:	389.04
EXPENSES:	
Newsletter etc Mailings	248.75
Reunion Album (Sam West)	1,127.00
Newsletter Printing	232.08
Pin Order (250)	192.88
Office Supplies	127.78
Reunion refund	77.00
Benton Memorial	25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,030.49
BALANCE IN ACCOUNT AS OF 12-31-85	\$176.26

Mail Call

Dear Frank:

Many thanks for your letter of September 21, 1985. Sorry I have been a little late in responding, but I have been out of town and I am just now getting around to my correspondence.

Please accept our congratulations for your activities with the 461st and of course we will look forward to its involvement with the Fifteenth Air Force Association.

Many thanks for the memorial book. It will serve a useful purpose in our organization.

Cordially,

MURRAY A. BYWATER

Brigadier General, USAF, Ret.

President, 15th Air Force Association.

* * * * *

Dear Frank:

I feel I've been tardy in writing. What I have to say is that I was in Italy in 1944 to 1945 in "The Best", however, another "The Best" 461st likewise existed in Amarillo, TX, for sometime and in its last years "1966-67" I was the DCO. Action, as you might expect was out of Guam and "Utiapau", Thailand. We had the B-52D model and the KC-135 Tanks. We had a great CO (Col. D. D. Lewis) and our accomplishment and crew actions were recognized from SAC Hdrs. And 2nd AF.

I was thinking some recognition of a complete "War Time" action of the 461st would be worthy of consideration. Proper advertising might increase the rolls and the financial statement. Enclosed are my dues for the year.

Thank you,

BILL MILLER, Flt. Leader

766 B.S. Italy 1944-1945

253 Pierremont Rd.

Shreveport, LA 71105

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ED: Bill is one of three that I know of that also went into the 461st Bomb Wing in later years. Looks like our 1943-45 words came back into use again in 1966-67. All kidding aside, we have a great rapport with the Wing. As there may be more of our members that served in the Wing we are including their address for your use. Contact Ralph Leone, 6204 Jameson Rd., Amarillo, TX 79106

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Dear Frank:

Sorry I was unable to attend the reunion. I do think a 461st reunion is better than a combined 461/484 one. Even though both groups were at the same airbase, I do not recall ever meeting any of the 484th people there.

I'm still trying to locate the following members of my crew who survived our being shot down 7/25/44 during our attack on the Herman Goring Tank Works at Linz, Austria:

John J. Kane	P	Chicago, IL
Paavo A. Koistinen	CP	Linden, NJ
Anthony M. Catana	Bomb	Oaklyn, NJ
Abraham Fedrau	Gun	Reedley, CA
Bryan J. Wells	Gun	N. Kan. City, MO

I would appreciate any lead to help me find any of these men.

I notice that you show the name "William Lovett" of the 767th as having registered or attending the reunion. Please send me his mailing address. Both he and Dale Snively, also on your list, were on another crew with me before I was assigned to the crew I was shot down with. "Young Snive" as he was known in those days, has already called me.

Regards,

MILTON RADOVSKY (767)

10710 Lockridge Drive

Silver Spring, MD 20910

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ED: Sent Lovett's address. John J. Kane, 035216 was a Fighter Pilot in the 98th Sqdn in Italy. I never heard of a B-24 being called a Fighter!

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Frank:

It is obvious from your Vol. 2 No. 1 that Jane & I missed one hell of a reunion! We will try harder to make the next one.

Reference is made to the 461st Plaque. Is it possible to purchase one for my office (Private)? Please advise.

Also you mentioned adding more film to the collection. Have you considered putting it on Video Tape?

Enclosed is my check for \$20.00.

Will look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

MILT KLARSFELD

16 Harding St.

Albany, NY 12208

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ED: I have seen a plastic copy of the plaques. Will check it out and let you know what the story is on reproductions.

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Dear Frank:

I came down from the 8th Air Force as a replacement spare gunner. I flew about a year with the 8th Air Force. I had quite a few missions with the 8th when I came to the 15th. Some of my records were misplaced in transit. I was a spare with the 8th. It was just about the same except we were the 8th the only fighter protection we had was from England to the French Coast. Then we were on our own. I flew as spare with the Squadron until Falkner's crew came back from R & R. Then I was assigned to his crew as some of the original crew were grounded. I stayed with Falkner until we came back to the states. We flew The Rough Rider. I received my Air Medal just be-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

fore we left for home.

Yours Sincerely,

NORMAN GANGERFIELD (766)

PO Box 312

Bluefield, WV 24701

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ED: I had heard of men that came down from the 8th but this is my first real contact. Norm has also furnished us with some pictures that he had taken. We will copy and return the originals.

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Dear Bill: (Harrison)

Just became a member of the Liberator Club and noticed your name and address in Unit Reunions.

I was a pilot in the 767th 461st Group, completed a tour of duty prior to the end of the war in Europe.

Certainly would appreciate hearing from you regarding future reunions of the 461st. I'll be retiring in February and would be available to attend anyplace.

Sincerely,

BOB ROEMER (767)

424 Romona Road

Wilmette, IL 60091

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SHORT BURSTS *****

JIM SHIPLEY (765) did a stint in the Vets Hospital for arthritis. He is now recuperating at home. Jim's Christmas card this year featured our Memorial Plaque at the A. F. Academy.

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TOM JAVARUSKI (764) is fine now but MARGE is back taking treatments again.

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WILLIAM J. MILLER (766) is under the weather due to leukemia.

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SENATOR GEORGE McGOVERN was a member of the 445th Bomb Gp.

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JOHN ROGAN, 3415 Cornfield Rd., Youngstown, OH 44506, brother of Frank G. Rogan, 767th, KIA, is looking for photos of him.

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REPLACEMENT OF MEDALS: Recovery of lost, stolen, or damaged authorized military decorations or awards or those for which you have documentation but never received, can be requested by sending a copy of your evidence and or copy of DD For 214 noting your awards to National Personnel Records Center, NCPMFC 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63122.

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BOMBARDIERS REUNION: Contact E. C. Humphreys, Jr., Box 254, Eagle Harbor, MI 49951

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SOUVENIR PHOTO ALBUMS of our 1985 reunion at Monument, CO will be available in limited quantities next month. For those of you that were unable to attend the reunion this will

be your only opportunity to determine whether or not your friends have grown more distinguished than you as they grew older. Please order on PX Order Form.

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STATE/AREA REPRESENTATIVES



The following members have agreed to represent the 461st, and to aid in finding members in their state:

- RALPH SEEMAN (766) Washington & Oregon
- BILL HARRISON (764) Florida
- CLIFFORD WINHAM (765) Arizona

If you have a name and address in their area, please send it to them and they will work on locating the lost member. If you live in one of the unshaded states and wish to help, please get in touch with your sqdn Director or F. O'Bannon.

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461ST PINS

We have the Group Pins for sale. Many of the members that did not attend the reunion are catching up by purchasing since we reordered. It is still the best looking pin that is available with the Group Insignia as the center piece. Also, please indicate your desires regarding a cloth patch on the order form. This is a survey for ordering purposes only.



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EDITOR WANTED

We still are looking for a volunteer Editor. If you are interested in this labor of love position, which will benefit the entire group, please contact Frank O'Bannon.

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FOR THE RECORD: Some older servicemen may be unable to get information about their active service from the National Personnel Records Center at St. Louis, the repository for active duty records. In 1973 nearly 19 million Army and Air Force personnel records were destroyed or rendered unusable by fire. Army personnel discharged between November 1, 1912, and December 31, 1959, fall in this area. While even verification of service can't be provided in many instances, NPRC will do its best to provide needed information.

AFTERBURNER

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Permission is granted to use articles provided source is mentioned.

TAPS LIST

Known deceased since October 1985 listing

Gabriel A. Babal			765
Robert Baker			765
John M. Benton, Jr.		12-20-85	764
Paterick Braesicke			765
Thomas E. Deibert	KIA	12-17-44	765
Roy L. Doe	KIA	12-17-44	765
Michael W. Duggan			765
Frederick H. Gaul	KIA	12-17-44	765
Edwin W. Grogan		8-14-85	461
William A. Guyton			766
Ortha B. Hardy, Jr.			461
Ira W. Herbert			764
Raymond G. Hunt, Jr.	KIA	12-27-44	766
Gust A. Karalis		7-18-82	767
Luther M. Kessler			767
Jack T. Kramer, Sr.			765
Jose M. Mergo	KIA	12-17-44	765
Murry F. Osmond		-84	764
Runar R. Pasell		6-17-76	764
Craven C. Rogers			461
Thomas K. West	KIA	12-17-44	765
Samuel F. Work			766
Frank Yesia	KIA	12-17-44	765
Donald W. Hofmann		9-18-85	765

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A ROSTER will be furnished to all members ASAP
after receipt of dues.

461st BOMB Group (H) 1943-1945

137 Via La Soledad
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
Address Correction Requested
Forwarding and Return Postage
Guaranteed

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN W. BENTON, Jr., died December 20, 1985 at a USAF Hospital in California. He was 65 years old and a resident of Sonoma, CA. John was born in Dallas, OR and raised in Eugene, OR.

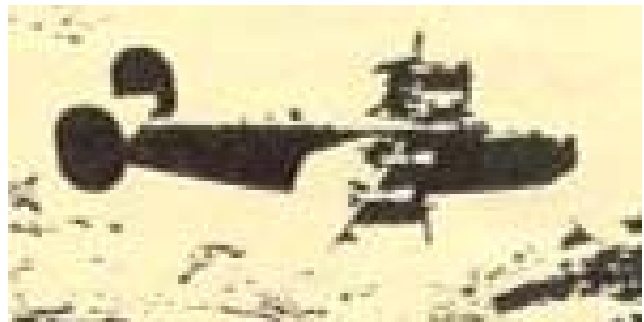
John entered the USAF in 1941 and retired in 1961 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was a pilot with out Group until he was shot down over Germany in 1944.

Upon his retirement from the AF, John entered college, received his teaching degree and entered the teaching field at the Petaluma and Sonoma School Districts.

At the time of his death he was President of the Sonoma Lions Club and active in the local convalescent hospitals in his area.

He was the husband of the late Mary Benton and father of George Benton of Sonoma.

Individual contributions were made by member of the Group to the Lions Eye Foundation of San Francisco, CA.



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