



451st Bomb Group Newsletter No. 6 April 2015



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2015 REUNION

The welcome bells are sounding for our upcoming reunion September 24th-27th at Kansas City. We again will be meeting with our partners and friends from the 455th, the 461st and the 484th Bomb Groups along with new friends from the 465th and 485th Bomb Groups. We also anticipate receiving some registrations from our good friend Kim Hobbs and fellow members from the 376th Bomb Group.

All in all, this should be a very special Reunion. If you happen to be the last living member of your crew, do come to our 2015 Kansas City Reunion. You will enjoy a great program and find many survivors in attendance with your situation.

Please send in your Registration relatively soon, this will facilitate our planning. Should you later need to cancel, your Registration payment will of course be refunded to you. Also, in making your hotel room reservation be certain to mention our group code "BOM" to assure receiving the reduced special room rate of \$99 plus tax. Hope to see you in Kansas City!

REUNION ACTIVITIES

Thursday, 24th September

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Early Registration – Hospitality Room will be open
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Reunion informational meeting in the Kansa room

Friday, 25th September

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Optional Tour* – National WWI Museum with Lunch
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Veteran led presentations & discussions in Kansa A & B room
5:00 PM - 8:30 PM Evening Sit Down Dinner including 451st, 455th & 465th members with informal speeches
• 5:00 PM - Cash Bar *
• 6:00 PM - Sit Down Dinner in the Wyandot room

Saturday, 26th September

9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
5:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Optional Tour* - Harry S. Truman Presidential Library with Lunch
Veteran led presentations & discussions in Kansa A & B room
Gala Banquet - All Bomb Groups. Guest Speaker: Roger Locher
• 5:00 PM - Cash Bar*
• 6:00 PM - Sit Down Dinner in the Shawnee Ballroom

Sunday, 27th September

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Memorial Service
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM Optional Tour* – Steamboat Arabia Museum with Lunch
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Optional* Casual Farewell Dinner in the Wyandot room

Registration Fee: \$115 per person (*Registration fee does not include the cash bars, the optional bus tours on Friday, Saturday & Sunday or dinner on Sunday)

Attire: Casual dress for all events with the exception of the Saturday Night Gala Banquet for which sport coat with or without tie is requested.

REUNION MEEETINGS

- The reunion includes the 451st, 455th, 461st, 465th, 484th and 485th Bomb Groups in order to keep our group a strong, viable size.
- Individual group dinners are planned for Friday evening. The 451st, 455th and 465th will meet together as one group and the 461st, 484th and 485th will each have their own group dinner.
- Saturday evening is the Gala Banquet including all Bomb Groups.
- Saturday guest speaker is Roger Locher, an F-4D Weapons Officer and Pilot who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1972. Locher spent a record 23 hair-raising days evading capture before being rescued and returned to friendly territory. Locher says he will consider it an honor to relate his story to our group. He is the nephew of 484th member, Dick Yunghans.

REUNION HOTEL

**Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel
8801 NW 112th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64153
Phone 1-816-891-8900 Ask for In-House Reservations
Group Booking Code is: BOM**

If You Prefer, Reserve Online:

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/M/MCIAPHF-BOM-20150922/index.jhtml>

- This hotel has been newly renovated and was done very nicely.
- Kansas City has direct flights in from 37 destinations nationwide!
- Complimentary Airport Shuttle - The shuttle (an actual stand up bus) runs every 15 minutes, 24 hours. It is helpful to call the hotel from a house phone in the airport to let them know you've arrived. There are bus stop type shelters outside that say Hotel Courtesy shuttle. From there you can wave down the Hilton shuttle when you see it.
- Room rates will be \$99 per night plus tax and will include a full, hot breakfast buffet for up to two people and two drink coupons per room, per day.
- Parking is free.

REUNION ITINERARY

Thursday, September 24th, 2015

Arrival and check in day. The hospitality room and registration table will be open with heavy hors d'oeuvres served in the afternoon and evening. No evening meal is planned.

7:00 PM – All group informational meeting will be held in the Kansa room (next door to the Hospitality room).

Friday, September 25th, 2015

9:00 AM - Depart hotel for optional* tour of the World War One Museum at Liberty Memorial with lunch at the Museum Café. This museum and memorial is the only one of its type in the country and is extremely well done! It also offers panoramic views of KC.

12:30 PM - Depart Liberty Memorial for return to hotel

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Veteran led presentations and discussions in the Kansa A&B room.

5:00 PM – Social hour before dinner with cash bar.

6:00 PM – Individual Group Banquets. 451st, 455th & 465th in the Wyandot room

Saturday, September 26th, 2015

9:30 AM – Depart hotel for optional* tour of the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and museum. Lunch at the Library's Atrium overlooking a beautiful outdoor courtyard.

12:15 PM – Depart Truman Library for a quick stop to view (from the outside) the Truman home. National Park Service rangers will step onto each motor coach to give an overview of the home's history. (Our group will be far too large to tour inside the home. They only take very small groups inside.)

12:30 PM - Depart the Truman home for return to hotel.

2:00 – 4:00 PM – Veteran led presentations and discussions in Kansa A&B room.

5:00 PM – Social hour before dinner with cash bar.

6:00 PM – All Groups Banquet, Roger Locher, featured guest speaker in the Shawnee Ballroom.

Sunday, September 27th, 2015

9:00 AM – Memorial Service

NOON – Depart hotel for optional* tour of Steamboat Arabia museum with lunch

3:30 PM – Depart Steamboat Arabia Museum for return to hotel

6:00 PM – Optional* Casual Farewell Banquet in the Wyandot room.

* Registration fee does not include the cash bars, the optional bus tours on Friday, Saturday & Sunday or dinner on Sunday.

REUNION TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

- Tours are first class venues that you will really enjoy
- For some tours, there may be substantial walking – wheelchairs are on hand at the venues
- All tours are optional. Tour cost is not included in base registration fee.

World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial (\$39 per person) – Friday, September 25th

This is the only Memorial of its type in the country and has been designated by Congress as the nation's official WWI museum and monument. The museum is extremely well done and nationally renowned. It offers a great insight into the war that many of our Bomb Group veteran's fathers fought in and illustrates that "some things just never change"! Atop the museum is the WWI Monument that was dedicated by President Coolidge and the Allied Commanders in 1921 in front of 150,000 people. The area surrounding the tower offers panoramic views of downtown Kansas City and the surrounding area. You can take an elevator to near the top of the 230 foot tall tower, although there are 45 stairs to get all the way up to the observation deck for breathtaking 360 degree views. We will have lunch in the Over There Café before returning to the hotel.

Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum (\$39 per person) – Saturday, September 26th

You will see first-hand how this humble and simple man from Independence, Missouri led our country and made some really difficult decisions after the death of FDR during the height of WWII. You will be amazed at the simplicity and unpretentiousness of the "most powerful man in the world". This is a great museum that our Veterans and wives will especially relate to. We will have lunch in the indoor atrium that overlooks the outdoor courtyard where HST's grave along with his beloved wife, Bess is located. We will then go the mile or so to view the Truman home from the outside, the home where he and Bess lived from the time they married until his death in 1972. A National Park Service Ranger will board each bus to give an overview of the home. Their home, although quite large by yesteryear's standards is remarkable in its simplicity and that of the surrounding residential neighborhood where the President took daily walks with no Secret Service protection (until the 1960s).

Steamboat Arabia (\$43 per person) – Sunday, September 27th

The Steamboat Arabia was a cargo and passenger steamboat that ferried supplies and people up and down the Missouri River, aka Big Muddy. This boat sank in 1856 and settled to a depth of about 45 feet of mud after the river channel changed over the course of time. It was discovered and a real treasure chest of ship parts and artifacts were retrieved. This is truly a fascinating museum and offers a great insight into the clothing, tools, kitchenware and many, many other items of life in the mid-1800s. We will have lunch in the museum's Atrium Café.

451st BOMB GROUP WEBSITE

We have a new website <http://www.451reunion.org/>

This site maintained by Warren (Sandy) Gordon contains significant information concerning the 451st B.G. including recent newsletters, Registration and other information pertaining to the 2015 Reunion in Kansas City. This includes a Registration Form to be used by the 451st & 455th Bomb Group members as well as a separate registration form to be used by the 465th Bomb Group members. For a limited time current information also will be provided on our old website (<http://www.gordons.ws/reunion2015/>)

DONATIONS

Should you desire to honor a crewmate or family member, just make a memorial donation of \$50 or more. Please send along the full name and duty position of the person being honored. Memorials and other designated tributes recently received are as follows:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>In Tribute To</u>
Andrew, Philip	Terrell "PEP" Prewett (Pilot) & John Haldane (Bombardier) B24 Craven Raven.
Cary, Peter C.	Ronald "Ron" V. Cary (Pilot 724 th SQ.)
Kacena, Margaret & family	Lt. Col. Robert C. "Bob" Kacena Mickey Navigator Group Headquarters
Osofsky, Meyer (Mike)	Bob Cockman (Pilot)
Osofsky, Meyer (Mike)	Calvin Chin (Nose Turret Gunner)
Thomas, Cheryl	Morton I. Sternberg (Bombardier)

Donations also have been received from the following since the November 2014 Newsletter:

Briggs, Blaine A.	Cushner, Stephen S.	Dan Sr., Silviu	Durham, Henry F. (Hank)
Milnor, Joseph K.	Osofsky, Meyer (Mike)	Pendleton, Andrew L.	Popok, Herbert B.
Prock, Floyd	Shaffer, Rossman N.	Tedesco Frank L.	

DISTRIBUTING THE NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

With the passage of time, more and more people are using E-mail as their primary communication vehicle. If you are receiving the newsletter in the mail and have an E-mail address, kindly send in your email to winjones@comcast.net. This will serve to reduce the cost of distributing future Newsletters. Also if you are a WWII survivor, please let us know your duty position with the 451st.

LAST FLYBY

The following reflects the death notifications received since our November 2014 Newsletter:

451 st Member	Duty Position	DOD
Cary, Ronald V.	Pilot – 724 th	03.17.2013
Cooney, John	Ball Turret Gunner	_____.2014
Haldane, John D. Jr.	Bombardier (Craven Raven & Jane Lee)	03.31.2011
Latchaw, Arthur J.	Unknown	07.15.2014
Noggle, Max	Tail Gunner (Sod Buster)	12.05.2013
Rathbone, Ward Jr.	Pilot	12.31.2014
Sternberg, Morton I.	Bombardier	09.15.2014
Vendryes, Henry D.	Radio Operator, gunner	01.12.2015
Vlatkovich, Edward E.	Unknown	03.____.2014

We are saddened to report that Clara Massare has passed away. She was the widow of Pete Massare, co-founder along with Bob Karstensen of our 451st B.G. Alumni organization. Clara was a very loving & active supporter of our 451st B.G.

RECENT 15TH AIR FORCE BOOK RELEASES

Forgotten Fifteenth: The Daring Airman that Crippled Hitler's War Machine by Barrett Tillman – Our own Mike Hill suggests that this book is probably the best overall publication of the role of the 15th Air Force. This book is available online at Amazon.com

Fifteenth Air Force Against the Axis: Combat Missions over Europe During WWII by Kevin A. Mahoney – A detail presentation of each mission flown by the 15th Air Force. This book is available online at Amazon.com

451st Bombardment Group in Action During WWII – For information on purchasing this DVD compilation of pictures, check the website www.MilitaryCinema.com or call Randy Jones 602.359.2353. Discount code for MilitaryCinema.com is G32617FCoKQ

ANOTHER B-24 FLIGHT – 70 YEARS LATER

Very pleased to make contact with Lenny Baltzer (Bombardier) on William "Andy" Anderson's crew in the 725th Squadron and his nephew, Paul Baltzer. Paul is presently a Captain flying with Jet Blue Airlines. He previously served for 20 years in the Air Force. Paul also volunteers his time flying both the B-24 and the B-17 for the Collings Foundation.

The picture below shows Lenny (now 92) with Paul alongside the B-24 of the Collings Foundation in October 2014 - they had just completed a flight in 'Witchcraft'. Lenny was hoping for a double mission credit but agreed to settle for a single sortie after a most enjoyable flight.



Lenny Baltzar & Paul Baltzar – October 2014

John Dayton's Tribute to Peter Massare - 727th Pilot & The Friday the 13th Jinx

It was Friday, October 13, 1944; 1st Lt. Pete Massare was to be out pilot in place of Lt. Robert D. Mack who was shot down on his first mission along with our regular nose gunner, St. Joe Naranjo.

We had flown our first mission to Bologna, Italy on the 12th and we knew that Pete was a great pilot. He had flown 43 sorties and was ready to go home with just several more to go.

Our position in the flight was #4 and he had taught me how to hold position in the formation without moving the throttles. Just slide over to the inside of the turn and you'll keep good position. He had encouraged me very much on that first mission.

Vienna was a dreaded target as it was heavily defended, but today it was to be a cinch. The target was supposed to be totally covered with overcast and we were going in at 21,000 feet on an instrument run. There would be plenty of chaff for the waist gunners to toss out so the Jerrys couldn't do a job on us.

Everything went smoothly until we started down the run. About ten minutes before "BOMBS AWAY," the sky opened up and there was our target – Dead ahead! And there we were like sitting ducks with 268 guns blazing away – "CAVU".

Our number three ship was first to slide out to the left – afire – then it exploded. One parachute was seen floating in the sky.

Then the lead plane took a direct hit, veered to the right and took out our number two ship. Both exploded. About that time our waist gunner advised us that number six had bailed out and tail end Charlie just took bombs from the lead ship in the high flight.

While all this was going on we lost number four engine, feathered it and number three was running away @ 3,400 R.P.M's. Pete gave me orders that I should try to feather number three and when it came down to 2,400 I stopped feathering. It took three attempts at this procedure before that engine finally settled down to hold at 2,400 R.P.M.

Now it was time to check the ship and crew. Everybody was okay, but next to my right leg was hole 12 inches long and 3 inches high, with insulation all over my right leg, plus a piece of '88" flak wedged by my left foot; just inches away. I picked it up and laid it on the quadrant. Peter, just shook his head and then said, Dayton, you'll make it through your tour, 'cause you really kept your cool'. I'll never forget the confidence that his remark gave to me.

We floated home by ourselves, as we only had two planes left out of the starting seven. The BBC radio advised us that America Heavies bombed their targets with little resistance – and no losses. This was hard for us to swallow after our baptism of fire.

Our crew was honored to have been introduced into combat by such a person as Pete Massare and I used his chute all the rest of my tour. He had a seat pack and that meant that I had a way down, if necessary.

Most of my 35 missions were never easy, but that one on Friday the Thirteenth is deeply imbedded in my memory.

I was later checked out as First Pilot and on my thirteenth mission, with a brand new airplane, got to land on Vis because of fuel shortage. Later it was determined that the automatic lean wasn't working on the two in-board engines. We came into Vis on three only; landed safely and stopped 50 feet short of the end of the runway. The next morning we took off after fuel was flown in and we had survived one more mission. Yes we slept in that barn upstairs with about 300 Yugoslavs on the floor.

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Print your return address in the space provided on the right. Please print clearly in dark ink.

Return To:

From:

Winson Jones
 451st Bomb Group
 18502 NW Montreux Dr
 Issaquah, WA 98027
 Email: winjones@comcast.net
 Phone: 425.223.2101

Name:
Address:
Telephone No.
E-mail:

**Joint Reunion 15th Air Force Bomb Groups WW II
 Kansas City, Missouri: September 24th – 27th, 2015
 Registration Form for 451st & 455th Bomb Group Attendees
 and Special Friends from the 376th Bomb Group**

Basic Registration Fee: Includes Fri & Sat Dinners	<input type="text"/> X \$115.00 per person =	\$
Optional Bus Tour 9/25: WWI Museum & Lunch	<input type="text"/> X \$39.00 per person =	\$
Optional Bus Tour 9/26: Truman Library & Lunch	<input type="text"/> X \$39.00 per person =	\$
Optional Bus Tour 9/27 Steamboat Museum & Lunch	<input type="text"/> X \$43.00 per person =	\$
Optional Sunday Dinner 9/27	<input type="text"/> X \$30.25 per person Southern Catfish <input type="text"/> X \$30.25 per person Grilled Pork Loin <input type="text"/> X \$25.50 per person Veg. Lasagna	\$ \$ \$
	Total	\$

(Make Checks Payable to: 451st Bomb Group)

Specify how name should be listed on name tag:

My Name Tag:	
Spouse's Name Tag:	
Guest's Name Tag:	
Guest's Name Tag:	
Guest's Name Tag:	
Guest's Name Tag:	

Continue →

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Name of Person Registering (same as Page 1): _____

Dinner Selections

For the dinner entrees, I/we have selected the following: (Select one entrée for each attendee)

Friday Dinner: Grilled Salmon _____ Roast Pork Loin _____ Ravioli _____

Saturday Dinner: Kansas City Strip _____ Chicken Oscar _____ Vegetable En Croute _____

Hotel & Travel

Staying at the Hilton Hotel : Yes _____ No _____

Arrival Date: Thursday 9/24 _____ Friday 9/25 _____

I plan to arrive by: Plane _____ Car _____

Bomb Group Association

Are you a Survivor of the air war in WWII? (Yes/No) _____

What was your group number? _____

Date of Birth: _____

List your duty position (pilot, tail gunner, mechanic, etc.): _____

If air crew member: Were you shot down: Yes _____ No _____

Were you a prisoner of war: Yes _____ No _____

Number of Missions: _____

List Medals awarded: _____

Attach your Air Force history (write-up) if available.

If not a Survivor, describe your relationship to a Bomb Group Member: _____

THREE FEATHERS - EXTENDED WINGS

In the November 2014 Newsletter, there was an article about the Three Feathers. Upon arrival at the 451st Bomb Group, "Three Feathers" was assigned to the 726th Squadron. Harold T. Bennett Radio Operator/Gunner writes that Bill Slater's crew flew most of their missions in "Three Feathers". Slater's crew was the first of the 726th Squadron crews to complete their missions for reassignment to the States. They were assigned a war-weary desert tan B-24 to fly back to the USA to be parked in the Arizona desert. Later this B-24 was retrieved, then named "Strawberry Bitch" and placed with the Air Force Museum in Ohio. In addition to Bennett, Willard Greene (Co-Pilot) and Richard Harren (Navigator) for Slaters crew are still living. Some of you may remember that Slater buzzed the field in Italy with this plane before departing for the States.

On a very personal note, many years ago, your editor Win Jones was finishing his exercise session at the Washington Athletic Club in Seattle when a business friend, Bill Slater casually mentioned to Win that he was going to a Reunion Yes, to a meeting of the 451st Bomb Group! This was Win's first introduction to the post war activities of our 451st B.G.

PERSONAL NOTES

Recently enjoyed a telephone visit with our 451st Alumni Organization Co-Founder and longtime leader Bob Karstensen. Bob is unable to travel to our Kansas City Reunion. He sends along his "Hello" and "Best Wishes" to his many friend on our mailing list.

My special friend and crewmate, Jack E (Little) Jones, Nose Turret Gunner (35 missions, 50 sortees) continues to battle advanced lung cancer. Hang in there "Little" Jones. When you complete this most difficult mission, credit for three "sortees" will be registered on your behalf! The living gunners of our crew (Paul Anderson, Jack Jones & myself) realize how very lucky we were. Because of our Group losing 1/3 of our planes on each of the missions flown on August 22nd and 23rd, 1944, we were flying virtually every mission. Through pure luck we were given a few days of R&R leave at the Isle of Capri which permitted our missing the October 13th mission described on page 7, when our squadron lost 5 of the 7 planes dispatched.

Good to report that I recently had a most interesting telephone discussion with Hjalmar Johansson of the 461st Bomb Group. Very similar to the good role of Achi Kozakis of our 451st B.G., Hjalmar makes many WWII Air War speeches to High School students and other groups. Hjalmar along with Orville Hommert of the 484th B.G. will be speakers at the upcoming Kansas City Reunion. They will jointly cover the happenings associated with the loss of Hjalmar's B-24 which was shot down on the crew's very first mission in December 1944. Hjalmar was a Nose Turret gunner. His Reunion presentation also will cover his prisoner of war experiences. Some may want to view a recording of one his speeches on You Tube – WWII POW on Cost of Freedom (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1he4y5Cg8E4>)

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