

REPORT ON THE 1984 REUNION



The fourth reunion of the 461st and 484th Bomb Groups took place in Orlando, Florida, May 31st to June 3rd, 1984, at the Hyatt Orlando Hotel. Warm spring weather of central Florida greeted some 375 members and their guests to a historic 4-day reunion in Orlando. The Hyatt Orlando, the reunion site hotel, with its spacious grounds and guest amenities helped put our guests in a holiday mood. The nearby attractions of Disneyworld and the Kennedy Space Center provided just the right bond to combine the reunion, with a mini-vacation, which the attendees enjoyed greatly.

With so much military talk and war stories filling their ears, a special ladies event was held so that the girls could be by themselves to enjoy female activities on the first afternoon of the reunion. They were hosted by Disneyworld at the Club House for lunch and a fashion show, followed by a trip across Lake Buena Vista to visit the shops of the Village. When questioned about their day on their return to the hotel, they responded with big smiles.

Two styles of caps (ladies' and mens' models) were distributed at registration. They were blue and white baseball caps emblazoned with the Association logo. These proved to be very popular at the conclave. The caps were seen bobbing up and down at Disneyworld and other Florida attractions resulting in requests from guests, as well as the general public, for extra caps. During the rest of the reunion, the committee was quite busy keeping up with sales of the caps which members wanted for gifts for their grandchildren, crew members who were not present at the reunion, and family members. (NOTE: a few caps in the mens' style and many ladies' caps are still available at \$5.00 each. (See tear slip for order form)

Again this year, as in previous reunions, (with the exception of the first reunion in Torrance) Squadron dinners were held in separate rooms. This proved once again to be very popular. Dinner service was just beginning, when the albums and memorabilia

surfaced, drawing crowds around the tables.

It was announced at the Annual Membership Meeting that the next Reunion would be held in 1986, and that the Annual Membership Meeting for 1985, as required by the corporation by-laws, would be held in the Los Angeles area. The Scholarship Committee reported that preparations were underway to seek candidates for the first award to be made to Italian students, hopefully, by the end of 1985, so that the actual award ceremony would take place in 1986. The Association has collected \$3,000 to date for the scholarship award distribution.

REPORT OF THE FLAG COMMITTEE

The Flag Committee consisting of Ginny Dudley (Mrs. Jay) 764th Sq. and Mary Lou Watkins (Mrs. Harry) 825th Sq. working together via mail and telephone from Mary Lou's California home and Ginny's location in New Jersey, set out to fabricate new group flags. The original flags, probably resting in some remote army storage area, could not be found. Using designs of other group flags, the drawing of the great eagle of the United States and renderings of each group insignia, a composite outline was submitted to an artist to transform into a complete design. This was then enlarged to scale and given to a flag company in Philadelphia to reproduce.

Please see Tear Slip to order full color 8 by 10 glossy prints of the Group flags.



JOHN BILLINGS 825TH SQ. (L) CARRIES THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES AND BLAIR BROWNE 826TH SQ. (R) CARRIES THE FLORIDA STATE FLAG FORWARD FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS.



JAY DUDLEY 764TH SQ. (L) AND HARRY WATKINS 825TH (R) TRANSPORT THE GROUP FLAGS TO FRONT OF THE BANQUET HALL FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS CEREMONY.



MARYLOU WATKINS 825TH SQ. CO-CHAIRPERSON OF THE FLAG COMMITTEE HOLDS UP THE NEW GROUP FLAGS.