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1. **B-29 Wings of the Marianas.** This is the successor organization to the 73rd Bomb Wing Association. The annual reunion was held in New Orleans, August 12-15 at the Hilton Garden Inn New Orleans Convention Center. Among the features were: A visit to the WWII Museum and a cruise on the steamboat "Natchez" for the 11:30 jazz brunch cruise on Sunday the 14th.

   Features: Saturday, August 13.
   Morning: Tour of the WWII Museum. Saw film Beyond All Boundaries, in 4-D. Also saw "Road to Tokyo “ Exhibit.
   Lunch at Museum restaurant “The American Sector.”
Afternoon: Toyama Video Presentation by Team from Toyama, Japan. Introduction by Jim Bowman. Toyama was the last target of the 73rd Wing and was heavily destroyed.

Evening: Supper at Museum and then went to “Stage Door Canteen” Dinner Show.” Songs from bands of the WWII era were featured (Benny Goodman, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Glenn Miller, and others.
Sunday, August 14.
Morning: Memorial Service, Mike Berdan
Business Meeting
Cindy June, Chair cyndyjune@yahoo.com
Karen Skurcenski, Secretary KSKUR@comcast.net
Mandy Cohen, Treasurer mandy@cohenconsultinggroup.com
11:30-1:30
Steamboat Natchez River Cruise
Evening
Banquet. Guest Speaker, Jeremy Collins, Director of WWII Museum.
Suggestion for 2017 Reunion – Wichita

Sadly, there were only 12 vets present. 88 people were registered. There were 84 for the dinner.

Front Row, L-R, Hugh Phillips, 73rd BW, 500th BG; Ken Bender, 314th BW, 330th BG; George Allen, 58th BW, 462nd BG; Jean H. Allen, 73rd BW, 497th BG; Sid Bolin, 73rd BW, 497th BG; Benjamin Brown, 313th BW, 9th BG; John “Jack” Davidson, 73rd BW, 500th BG; Ed Lawson, 73rd BW, 500th BG; Back in Corner, Nanny Baskin, Director; Jack Rodin, 314th BW, 330th BG; Gomer Lesch, 315th BW, 331st BG; Paul Malnove, 313th BW, 9th BG. Photo by Kristine Homan.
Attenders from the 500th:
Hugh Phillips, Vet
Cyndy June (Jim Farrell’s daughter)
Mandy Cohen (Jim Farrell’s daughter)
Julie Kate Ross (Carroll Haygood’s daughter)
Jim Bowman (Son of Jim Bowman, Sr.)
Ed Lawson, Vet

Mandy Cohen, Treasurer
Karen Skurcenski, Secretary
Cyndy June, Chair
(Photograph Not Available)

Audience at Toyama Film, Mildred Beacher, Right

Stage Door Canteen

Jeremy Collins, Director, WWII Museum
Banquet Speaker

Reunion 2017 to be held June 14-19 in Wichita, Kansas
Japanese Film Crew at the New Orleans Reunion. The team consisted of Yukio Iokibe, News Director, News Production Department & Toyokazu Nishida, Cameraman, News Production department, both of Toyama Tulip TV and Eriko Takehama, Fujisankei Communications International, who served as translator. The crew showed their film on Toyama that was produced in 2016. Then, filmed reactions of members of the audience to the film and also at the WWII Museum. DVDs are now being made available.

2. 497th and 500th websites. Both of these have been updated in March. The average number of “hits” for the 497th since December was approximately 100 and from at least 10 countries. The average number for the 500th was 200 a month from 15 or more countries. Work on both of these sites is continuous as data keep coming in.

3. CDs. We are producing more CDs. One is from an anonymous donor and has many items on Saipan. Copies were mailed paid-up members and some others. A second DVD on the Toyama film was also sent to paid-up members. Members who renewed or new members should have received both of these discs. Any questions can be directed to edlawson@netsync.net

4. Friends of the 497th Bomb Group is composed of those with ties to the 497th but have joined the 500th Bomb Group Association. Corey Thompson (broxb29@gmail.com) is the 497th Representative.

5. Fold3. The site is listed below. http://www.fold3.com/browse.php#292|h1bCH6AV-

There has been a great deal of interest in the records of men of the 497th and 500th as well as the 20th Air Force as a whole. Direction for easy access to the 497th and 500th sites is enclosed in this mailing. If the viewer looks around, many photos of the 20th can be found. There is no charge. Some of these records, especially Personal Accounts are available nowhere else.

6. Reminder. WWII Memorial. You may already be familiar with the WWII Memorial. All those who were KIA are supposed to be listed but many are not. There were well over 300 men from the 497th and over 200 from the 500th who were lost. Individuals can send in entries as well. Since there were many from the 500th that died and were not listed, the 500th Bomb Group Memorial Association honored all men from the 500th who died in service. For further information, go to http://WWIIMemorial.com and then go to the Registry. It is also possible to add photos.

For those interested, the Honor Roll list of the men of the 497th is available on request from edlawson@netsync.net. It shows all the men memorialized with links to National Archives and the World War II Memorial. The links take the viewer right to the Memorial where entry can be downloaded. Volunteers are sought for help in adding 497th names to the WWII Memorial.

7. Mail and Postal Mail, Websites.

Note this notice is being prepared in two forms. An e-mail version will go out as well. The e-mail version will make it easier for those with computers to log on by just clicking. There are many sites on the web. They can be found by just going to B-29.

8. Milt Martin Sites: Includes 17 videos including Pratt, 29th Bomb Group, Flying the Hump and the Marianas. https://www.youtube.com/user/miltm1944

WII Airfields of the Plains. During WWII vast expanses of Kansas and Nebraska were transformed into massive training bases for American Bomber Crews. Special section on the 330th Air Service Group. Many crew photos. https://flic.kr/pyvrr
Prairie Bombers Digital Library. Has a great deal on the 497th, especially on individual crews. [www.PrairieBombers.org](http://www.PrairieBombers.org)

9. **Reminder: Veterans History Project.** Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The mission is to collect, collect, and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Members who are veterans are asked to consider making a contribution. Family members of a veteran can also make a contribution (photos, diaries, records, other items).

### 500th Websites:


**VIDEO: Doc performs high speed flight and arrives at Wichita’s Eisenhower National Airport**

For the first time ever, B-29 Doc successfully landed at Wichita's Eisenhower National Airport. The restoration and flight crew took off from Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base around 10:30 a.m. CDT, Saturday, Nov. 5 and flew for approximately 90 minutes to the east of Wichita.

11. **Don Thurow – Last Flight**

Mary Swindall, close friend of Don's sent this notice.

“It is with a sad and heavy heart that I am sending this to family and friends. Don passed away Monday evening, 11-7-2016, following a fall early Monday morning.

Don R. Thurow, 92, of Houston, Texas died Nov 7, 2016. He was born on April 30, 1924. He was the son of Carl and Lora (Schoeberlein) Thurow of Aurora, Illinois and lived there during his childhood years. He enlisted in the AACORP in Dec 1942 and served with the 73rd Bomb Wing, Saipan 1944-1945. He participated in the B-29 Total Aerial Victory to conquer Japan.
Later he attended the Univ of Illinois and Northwestern Univ followed by 2 years of ethnographic research living with the Baoule' people in Cote d'Ivoire(Ivory Coast), French West Africa.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Stanley and Dr. Ray C. Thurow and wife, Alice. He is survived by his sister, Gloria Thurow Hauser, three children Sharon, Scott and Greg and three grandchildren Aaron, Aïda and Cameron.

A grave-side service will be held Monday, Nov. 14, 2016 at 11 AM at St. Paul Lutheran Cemetery, Montgomery, Illinois.

Donations may be made to the charity of your choosing in lieu of flowers.

Services are under the direction of Dieterie Memorial Home, 1120 S. Broadway, Montgomery, IL 60538.”

Our condolences to Mary and the members of his family.

Don and I had known each other on Saipan. We even attended the University of Illinois at the same time although we never met (Don was in engineering, I was in liberal arts). Don was one of the founders of the 500th Bomb Group Memorial Association and served as a Director from its beginning. Don furnished the first collection of photos all of which are now on the 500th website.

We salute his memory, Ed Lawson

12. New Orleans DVDs available. The Japanese film crew that made the DVD Last Raid on Toyama joined the B-29 Wings of the Mariana reunion in New Orleans. They showed the original DVD/film and interviewed attendees for comments and reaction. They also attended and photographed the group’s visit to the WWII Museum. The DVDs are available to paid-up members of the 500th at no charge upon request to 500th BombGroup@netsync.net. The previous DVD Last Raid on Toyama is also available at no charge for paid-up members. Others may obtain one of the DVDs for $10:00 made out to 500th Bomber Group Memorial Association, or both for $15:00.

Ben Brown 9th Bomb Group & Son Berry (L)

Jim Bowman 500th (L) Hugh Phillips 500th

Hugh Phillips 500th Jean Allen 497th

Sid and Mary Bolin 497th

Nanny Baskin 498th (L)

Ed Lawson, Roger Knipp, Sal Knipp, Jack Rodin

500th Bomb Group Memorial Association
Membership Renewal (Year is from June 1, 2016-May 31, 2017)

Yes! I want to continue as a Partner and help the 500th Bomb Wing Memorial Association with its mission of preserving and perpetuating the glorious memories of courage and heroism of the men of World War II.

The 500th Bomb Group Memorial Association is recognized as a non-profit under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Checks can be made out to: 500th Bomb Group and sent to: Kenneth F. Fine, 2003 SW Meyer Blvd, Blue Springs, MO 64015, (816) 228-4212,
finechateau@msn.com

Annual Dues $25. Contributions___ $15 ___ $20 ___ $30 ___ $50 ___ $100 ___ Other

Name ____________________________________________ Address_________________________________

Please Print Telephone (     ) (     ) (     ) E-mail ___________________________________________

If Legacy, Name of Person to Whom Related____________________________________________________

Unit in the 73rd:_______________Group____________Squadron___________Other____________________

(Fif Other, Please give further information)_________________________________________________________________

Friends of the 497th Bomb Group
Renewal Membership (Year is from June 1, 2016-May 31, 2017)

Yes! I want to continue as a Partner and help the Friends of the 497th Section of the 500th Bomb Wing Memorial Association with its mission of preserving and perpetuating the glorious memories of courage and heroism of the men of World War II.

The 500th Bomb Group Memorial Association is recognized as a non-profit under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Checks can be made out to: 497th Section, 500th Bomb Group and sent to: Corey Thompson, 497th Representative, 26351 S. McHardy Rd., Brandon, SD 57005-7009, Tel: 605-582-3437. broxbx29@gmail.com

Annual Dues $25. Contributions___ $15 ___ $20 ___ $30 ___ $50 ___ $100 ___ Other

Name ____________________________________________ Address_________________________________

Please Print Telephone (     ) (     ) (     ) E-mail ___________________________________________

If Legacy, Name of Person to Whom Related____________________________________________________

Unit in the 73rd:_______________Group____________Squadron___________Other____________________

(Fif Other, Please give further information)_________________________________________________________________
B-29 Museum Membership Application/Renewal

The B-29 Museum holds the memorabilia collection of the 73rd Bomb Wing. It has extensive exhibits and educational programs.

YES! I want to join and help the B-29 Museum with its mission of preserving and perpetuating the glorious memories of courage and valor of the men who trained at the Army Air Fields in Kansas during World War II. The B-29 Museum is recognized as a non-profit under Section 501 © (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Contributions are deductible. Fiscal year: January 1-December 31st.
Checks can be sent to: B-29 Museum, Inc., and sent to P.O. Box 29, Pratt, KS 67124.

Annual Dues: ___ $20. ___ Life Membership $200. Contributions___ $15 ___ $20 ___ $30 ___ $50 ___ $100 ___ Other ___ Total____

Name ____________________________________________ Address________________________________

Please Print
Telephone (         ) (         ) (           )     E-mail _______________________________________

If Legacy, Name of Person to Whom Related_____________________________________________________

Unit in the 73rd:____________ Group_________ Squadron_________ Other__________________

(If Other, Please give further information)_____________________________________________________

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Yukio Ioki, Toyokazu Nishida, and Eriko Takehama

Mildred Beacher 497th (H) & Rosalind Abel (L), Mildred’s Daughter