

20TH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
1143 Glenview Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108 Phone & Fax (805) 969-2796
October 15, 1995



PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM (PASM)

330th Bomb Group Assn. has raised over \$150,000 for PASM to erect a 27,000 sq. ft. building for static display of a 330th B-29. This Association then pledged another \$100,000 for the Museum to serve as the national repository of 20th Air Force memorabilia. By Sep. 15, 1995, contributions toward the \$100,000 were: 58th Wing \$14,477; 29th Gp and 73rd Wg (497th Gp), \$1,000 each; 313th Wing (including 509th) \$16,147; 314th Wing \$11,535, and 315th Wing \$9,200; 40th Gp \$250; 39th, 331st, 462nd, 498th, 499th, 500th, 504th Gps and 7th Ftr Cmd., 0 each--a total of \$57,359, with \$42,641 to go. Please make contributions by check to PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM FOUNDATION, mark it "IRS Exemption #958047917," mail to above address (for forwarding), we track unit contributions (Museum doesn't), and will advise when the \$100,000 has been raised.

MUSEUM OF FLIGHT (SEATTLE-)

Is refurbishing a B-17 and starting on a B-29. When up that way, lend a hand if you can; otherwise, send them \$10 for nuts & bolts. Airplane lovers really like the place, and time spent there won't be regretted.
6th Bomb Gp Assn: 7th Fighter Cmd Assn. 9th Bomb Gp Assn: 19th Bomb Gp Assn: 29th Bomb Gp Assn:
39th Bomb Gp Assn: 40th Bomb Gp Assn: 55th Wx Recon Sqdn Assn: 58th Bomb Wg Assn: 73rd Bomb Wg Assn: 315th Bomb Wg Assn: 330th Bomb Gp Assn: 504th Bomb Gp Assn: 505th Bomb Gp Assn:

UPCOMING REUNIONS

Tucson, Oct. 26-28, 1995; 1996 yet to be determined. Yet to be determined. Las Vegas in '96 (tentatively Oct. 7-10). Ft. Worth, Sep. 17-21, 1996.

Independence, MO, Oct. 12-15, 1995; '96 to be determined. Tysons Corners, VA (near Washington, D.C.), Aug. 15-18, 1996. San Francisco, late Sep. '96. Branson, MO, Sep. '96. San Antonio, Aug. 19-24, 1996. Corpus Christi (Marriott Hotel), May 16-19, 1996; Tucson, October 2-6, 1996 Omaha, Sep. 26-29, 1996 Tucson in '96, with exact date yet to be determined. Las Vegas, April '97 (to observe USAF's 50th anniversary)

ENOLA GAY: A BATTLE WON...IS THE WAR OVER?

Peace activists long planned 1995 to be the climactic year of their campaign to cause America to apologize ('mea culpa') for using A-bombs on Japan, and expected Smithsonian curators to display Enola Gay in a manner supporting that campaign. Those curators thought they could play their academic games in a government museum and give veterans the treatment they use on all critics: Talk down to 'em, and if that doesn't silence 'em, ignore the bums! The WW II crowd wouldn't take this. Once we had been brushed-off, we started with Letters to the Editor and Congress, and curators learned that they may consider us the great unwashed, but we number in millions and Congress can count votes. The ground began to shift in the Spring of 1994 when AIR FORCE MAGAZINE Editor-in-Chief, JOHN T. CORRELL, started writing about the proposed Enola Gay exhibit. Correll asked only for 'balance and context' (didn't try to edit what curators offered), and wouldn't be fobbed-off by their non-answers or slick disinformation. Exhaustive analyses of their scripts, concise summaries, and his clear, forceful writing nailed them to the wall—repeatedly. The Smithsonian would

pretend it had made corrections but hadn't, and its deceit just compounded its problem. Supporters and subscribers left in droves. Other veterans' publications—usually relying on CORRELL's work—joined-in and veterans across the country—guys like you—applied unyielding pressure. Once Congress 'counted the votes,' the fat was in the fire. Reputable historians—those familiar with military as well as political and diplomatic history—brought out some excellent new histories explaining why the Japanese military (which took control of the Government in 1936) refused to permit civilian control even after their Navy had been sunk, 150+ square miles of their cities incinerated, and hundreds of thousands killed. They wouldn't quit until A-bombed twice, the Soviets declared war, and the Emperor ordered them to stop. These historians show why, today, Japan spends a fortune annually on American anti-nuke campaigns (they want us to apologize for A-bombing them, in hopes that will lower us to their level of WW II morality and enable them to avoid ever having to apologize for their barbaric wartime behavior). See Bruce Lee's Marching Orders, Norman Polmar's Operation Downfall, Robert Newman's Truman & the Cult of Hiroshima.) CORRELL 'led the charge' and because veterans chimed in. Congress became active and the Smithsonian's Secretary stepped-in and set the Smithsonian and NASM on a new course. All of us helped, but CORRELL was the key.

July 15, 1995, the Smithsonian opened NASM for a private tour of the Enola Gay exhibit by members of our 'Enola Gay Committee' (appointed last year by President John Jennings to coordinate and spearhead our Enola Gay effort) and 15 other 'Enola Gay Crusaders' with whom this Committee worked. The exhibit is about as much as available space allows, it's unemotional, factual, and well-planned. We appreciated the courtesy shown us, sent congratulations to the Secretary for a well-planned exhibit and assured him that if this represents future Smithsonian exhibits, we will be among his staunches! supporters, but if it is an exception to what has become the Smithsonian's norm, we will be among his toughest critics.

A clue to the permanence of changes at National Air and Space Museum will come when the next director of NASM is chosen. The extent of change will, we believe, be affected substantially by those who conducted the recent management survey of NASM and related parts of the Smithsonian. When the Smithsonian Secretary (CEO) cancelled the curators' Enola Gay exhibit and started preparing his own, he selected the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to survey the management of NASM and related parts of the Smithsonian. While a military Inspector General Team may have been what NASM needed, no one outside the military (for example, Congress, Smithsonian employees, the press) would have given the report sufficient credibility. However, NAPA has credibility inside the Beltway and with the press, so we are better off with this report than one from almost any other agency. NAPA took a level-headed, no-nonsense approach, rendered an objective critique that pulled no punches and delivered clear-cut findings and excellent recommendations. With the report of this quality from NAPA, we think the CEO has no choice but to act. He did us a favor by choosing this organization for the survey (even if we disagreed at the time). Keep an eye on the situation, hope for the best, and stay tuned.

CEREMONY AT PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S GRAVE

The Harry S. Truman Appreciation Committee invited 20th Air Force Association to hold its annual board meeting in the Truman Library on August 5, 1995 (remember, when it happened, it was Aug. 5 in the States but already Aug. 6th out there where it fell). Board members did so, then attended memorial ceremonies conducted to honor President Truman for his decision to use the Bomb. About 1,200 people, including representatives of dozens of veterans organizations, were present. It was a fitting and impressive occasion and 20th Air Force veterans were conspicuous by their numbers. We saw a lot of people that day who went out of their way to tell us how much they appreciate what you did for your country. As is sometimes said, "You did good work."

SHORT BURSTS (not more than 10 rounds)

a. Plaque Honoring Correll: July 15, 1995, 20 AFA presented a plaque (12x18, bronze) to JOHN T. CORRELL, EDITOR IN CHIEF, AIR FORCE MAGAZINE, expressing gratitude for his arousing the nation over the outrageous Enola Gay exhibit NASM was planning. It's mounted in the AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION Building and a copy appears on outside of this newsletter. Curators, liberal press and their cohorts are giving him heavy flak for all that he did for us. Write and let his boss know—at least let him know-how much you appreciate his work. Nobody else could do what he did for us (and his country).

- b. Want a new "20th Air Force Album," like the original, for \$35 + \$5 for postage and handling? 2,500 were printed way back when, and a publisher is ready to print more if there is sufficient interest. Those wanting copies should contact (in near future) Paul Keenan, 2800 Wisconsin Avenue, #911, Washington, D.C. 20007 (202) 363-9016. If enough people want them (450?), he'll have them printed.
- c. Annual Dues. Dues are our only source of operating capital. They are \$10 per year, due Sep. 30, and we don't send statements. If you haven't paid dues in the last couple of years, you may be dropped when our mailing list is next culled. We don't want to do that, because we want to maintain contact with all 20th Air Force veterans, but can't keep mailing to those who don't chip-in. Please send what you can today, and do so annually.
- d. Remembering A Crew That Didn't Return: When the 29th Bomb Gp Assn was about to donate \$1,000 to Pima Air & Space Museum, a member asked: "Why not make this contribution in the name of a crew we lost? They will never get a chance to put their names here, so if we don't do it for them, who \vilfl" So a missing crew's name was drawn 'from the hat,' and its members' names will go on the plaque. Will the rest of us do as much for the friends we lost?
- e. What Should This Outfit Do? This is your outfit, but we haven't heard what you would like it to do. It has (i) held a couple of reunions (but avoids them because Gp/Wg organizations said, "Quit! They confuse our people"), (ii) erected a Memorial Wall at the USAF Academy and helped with plaque installation, (iii) selected Pima Air & Space Museum as repository for B-29 memorabilia (and is raising \$100,000 for this), (iv) participated in the Enola Gay battle, (v) awarded a plaque thanking JOHN T. CORRELL for arousing the nation over the proposed Enola Gay exhibit, and (vi) participated in the Truman Appreciation Ceremony at President Truman's grave, Aug. 5, 1995. Do you approve of any/all of this? Tell a Director*. Directors for Coming Year

George W. Allen (462nd Bomb Gp)

Vernon L. Chandler (Pres 19th Bomb Gp Assn)

Changnon, Harry E. (40th BombGp)

Wm. E. Cooper, (Past Chrnn 315th Wg Assn)

Robert E. Flischel, (Pres, 9th Bomb Gp Assn)

Merle Gaylon, (506 FG, 7th Ftr. Cmd.)

Raymond F. Halloran, (73rd Bomb Wg)

Fiske Hanley, (504th Bomb Gp)

Emanuel Horowitz, (Chmn. 315th Wg Assn)

John E. Jennings, (Pres. 6th Bomb Gp Assn)

Wm. C. Leasure, (Past Chmn 315th Wg Assn)

Hollis B. Logan, (39th Bomb Gp)

J.W. (Bill) Mathay, (Past Chmn. 315th Wing Assn)

John E. Misterly, (444th Bomb Gp)

Harry F. Mitchell, (Pres., 29th Bomb Gp Assn)

Ben Nicks, (9thBombGp)

Jim Pattillo, (468th Bomb Gp)

Fred F. Pawlikowski, (29thBombGp)

CharleS L. Phillips, (498th Bomb Gp)

Jay Reichbach, (500th Bomb Gp)

John Roman, (Pres. 58th Wg Assn)

Norman E. Shaw, (505th Bomb Gp)

Elbert B. Smith, President Emeritus (509th Bomb Gp)

Officers: Jim Pattillo, Pres.; Jay Reichbach, 1st VP; George Allen, 2nd VP; John Misterly, Sec-Treas;

Elbert Smith, President Emeritus; Denny Pidhayny, Historian.