

MAIL CALL:

Dear Bud:

You and friends have done too much to start splitting up the organization now, Bud. Few of the boys, including myself, know of all the trips you've made to parts of the country, letters you've written, phone calls galore, etc. necessary to make a successful reunion. You have simply gone ahead and done these things and I think some where along the line, these many details should be enumerated to the Association.

In short, I'm for keeping things as they are. Squadron mixers and dinners are important and were very well done at Orlando, I felt.

Looking forward to receiving the next Toretta Flyer and perhaps making the L.A. meeting in Fall of 85.

All the best to you and Bea.

JIM VAN NOSTRAND
765 Sq.

Dear Bud:

I agree that a break-up of the association as O'Bannon had suggested would be regrettable and indeed mentioned so in my response.

Best regards. Sincerely,

CHRIS DONALDSON
765 Sq.

Member, Paul W. Lawrence 766 Sq., sent us this copy of his letter to O'Bannon and Harrison:

Frank C. O'Bannon & Bill Harrison
Gentlemen:

I refer to your letter of August 7, 1984. What in hell is going on? Frank: you, Bea and Bud put the association together and it was Your good idea for the units joining together. Unfortunately, not enough of each group can attend these reunions to gain clout with the hotels. Together we're strong, but divided: Zonk!

I think your suggestion for San Antonio for a 1986 reunion is good but for the existing association rather than solely the 461st. It would balance the average trip distances for all. Does San Antonio have outside attractions for the wives and ourselves? Williamsburg was good and Orlando was great on that aspect.

I'm happy that my wife & I made the Williamsburg reunion as it was the only time to see two buddies, Art Farnham and Bob Faulkner, who we've since lost. I am looking forward to our next reunion as we have lost 3 of our guys and I came close to checking out, but we are still 7 strong!

Regretfully,

PAUL WM. LAWRENCE, JR.
766th B.S. * 461st B.G.
Aircraft No. 40
"Full Boost"

Dear Bud:

I received your letter today and you answered a question that I had wondered about. I received the notification from O'Bannon and it looked to me very much like the Association was splitting apart. I wrote to Ralph Seeman and asked him what he thought but to date no answer, your letter explains the situation. My response to O'Bannon was this: that I thought you had done a terrific job with the Association and I did not want to change it in any way. I am all for a meeting in San Antonio. The letter from O'Bannon I felt was rather strange because it indicated a split which as a member I think is very foolish. Anyway I am behind you and the organization 100%. I feel that you have done a magnificent job against a lot of difficulty and I for one have enjoyed the meetings and hope they continue on as before.

Again, I am behind you and the Association 100% and I will be in San Antonio for the next reunion, God Willing.

"BILL" WILLIAM H. PARKHURST
766th Squadron

Dear Bud and Bea

Just a very few words to let you know that I wrote to Harrison and O'Bannon to voice my objections over their plan. You are absolutely right in thinking that their plan would eventually "be devisive and weaken our Association"

Sincerely, ADOLPH "MARK" MARCUS
824th Squadron

Dear Bud:

Sorry to hear that there will be no reunion in 1985 so I'm looking forward to 1986, the one at San Antonio since I trained at San Marcos.

I hope those fellows who are trying to change the reunion would drop off! It's like the people who wanted to fix the Bell system, which wasn't broke. Now look what we have —

I thank you for the enjoyment I have had at the reunions.

CHARLES SHAFFER
827th Squadron

Dear Bud:

Another year almost gone — before I get wrapped up in the hussle of the holidays want to send the dues for 1985.

We did get a letter about whether the 461st should separate — I ignored it as I did the one we got before. It would be like a slap in the face after all the work you two have done getting everything together. The first letter was from a Barnes after the Dayton reunion — then this one after Orlando — Sorry

they didn't have as good a time as the rest of us did.

HAROLD MILLER
767th Sq.



PHOTO OF HAROLD MILLER TAKEN DURING GUNNERY TRAINING.

Dear Bud:

I received a letter from Frank C. O'Bannon Jr. today & I was a little confused. You had mentioned that the next reunion would be in San Antonio, Texas - 1986. This letter I received says that the 461st Bomb Group is having a reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado, in September, 1985.

Is the Frank C. O'Bannon affiliated with you or are they independent of your group?

I would like to know one way or the other. I enjoyed our reunion in Orlando, & I do want to be with the same group. Would you please let me know right away?

Thank You,

JAMES P. STRANO
765th Squadron

Dear Bud:

I recently received a letter from Frank O'Bannon, Bill Harrison and Sammy West dated 7 November 1984 stating that they were organizing a 461st Bomb Group reunion for September 1985 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. No mention was made of the 484th Bomb Group. I was under the impression that our next reunion was to be held in San Antonio, Texas in 1986.

I would like to know who authorized these people to arrange an additional reunion? Is this an official reunion of the Association and if so why wasn't the 484th Bomb Group mentioned? Why was I the only one notified of this proposed reunion when other members of my crew who live in this area did not receive any notification?

It seems to me that individual efforts of this type will only fragment our Association and lead to the eventual break-up of a good organization.

I would appreciate any information