



**6th Bomb Group
Association**

**TINIAN ISLAND
1944 - 45**

**JANUARY
2013**



Charleston – Where History Was Re-Lived

Yes, history was relived in Charleston, SC from October 4 - 7, 2012 as the 6th Bomb Group Association met for its 24th Reunion with the theme being "Pay It Forward". And indeed it was, with over 100 attendees spanning four generations the legacy of the 6th Bomb Group was certainly paid forward.

Reunion committee members began arriving early in the week to prepare for the arrival of the group. The 6th Bomb Group Banner greeted members as it proudly hung in the lobby of the Hilton Garden Inn, North Charleston. Registration opened at 3:00 PM in the hospitality suite and the festivities were immediately in full swing. Beverages, wine, cheese, fruit trays and sandwich plates were all provided and the entire group remained throughout the afternoon and evening meeting and greeting old friends as well as some new faces that we haven't seen for a while. If this was an indication of how the rest of the week would be, it was certainly going to be fun.

Friday started off nice and casual with the complementary breakfast in the Great American Grill. At 11:00 AM everyone assembled in the hospitality suite for our first ever panel discussion with the veterans. This was an opportunity to ask our vets questions regarding their military experiences, and what a hit it was. Even the veterans themselves commented on what a fantastic idea it was to do this. I'm sure it will be a part of all future reunions. The entire discussion was video taped and can be viewed on You Tube via this link. (<http://youtu.be/kJvpJIRUBMM?hd=1>) At 12:30 buses departed the hotel for Joint Base Charleston and a tour with our gracious hosts Capt. Jarrod B. Scoggin and Trisha Gallaway from the 437th Airlift Wing. At the base, the group received a demonstration of the latest equipment used by the EOD Unit for ordinance disposal along with a static tour of the C-17. What a treat to be able to sit in the pilot's seat of such a huge aircraft. Later, the group was transported to the Base Theater for a briefing on the 16th Airlift Squadron's Missions along with a question and answer discussion with a few members of the 6th Bomb Group. It was interesting to see the reaction of today's pilots when the veterans talked about taking off from Tinian overloaded and needing that drop-off at the end of the runway for the few extra knots of airspeed to begin their climb. My how times have changed. The buses returned to the hotel by 4:30 and the group enjoyed dinner with their friends. At 7:00 PM, Eric Lavender with his Parrot Doser entertained everyone with

the role pirates played in the history of Charleston. The younger crowd was totally fascinated and asked Eric plenty of questions.

Saturday, we boarded the buses at 9:00 AM for our guided tour of Historic Downtown Charleston. Jamie Mellon from Charleston Convention & Group Services did an excellent job of hitting the highlights on our two-hour tour. We saw the famed Citadel Military College along with several other historic sites from the area. At 11:00

AM the group was dropped off in the Old Market Place for a couple hours of free time and lunch at one of the many restaurants. Several of the group opted for the carriage ride thru Old Town. At 2:00 PM it was back to the hotel for the general membership meeting and banquet. The cash bar opened at 6:00 PM and members began assembling to purchase raffle tickets for one of the many prizes to be offered that evening to benefit the group's scholarship fund. The Honor Guard from Joint Base Charleston presented the

colors and after the Pledge of Allegiance dinner was served. While enjoying a piece of cheesecake topped with a chocolate Circle R, our guest speaker, Robert Mastrion spoke about the role of the Veteran in today's world. What a wonderful message. Dave Wilson presented each veteran a booklet containing the 6th Bomb Group History along with a vial of sand from Iwo Jima. Finally, Glenda Richards, Lori Forsman and Jeanne Holmes conducted the raffle and auction for the many items we received to benefit the scholarship fund. Of the many items offered were books from members Warren Higgins, "The Wednesday Pen" and Paul Dietzel, "Call Me Coach". This year we raised \$1,381.00 for the scholarship fund. Thank You all for your generosity.

Sunday morning dawned early after last evening's activities and Steve Hays, Jim's nephew, conducted the traditional Memorial Service. Steve delivered the message as eloquently as we're used to hearing from Jim and as always, it had a direct connection back to those days of 1944-45 on the Island of Tinian where life long friendships were forged and remain to this day. The only thing left at this point were hugs and kisses prior to our return home. Such a wonderful time, wish it could be longer. Can't wait to see what the Ritters have planned for us in Milwaukee in 2013. From the entire reunion committee, it was an honor to plan and stage this reunion for all of you.





MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I faced this task of a message to all of you, I decided to reread some of the words of the wise men who have addressed this distinguished group before to gain insight to its importance. As the first President not to be a Veteran of World War II, I must first say to all what a phenomenal honor it is to serve this magnificent organization... "The 6th Bomb Group"! I commit to you all that I will address these duties as I outlined at the Charleston Reunion. We will go forward with the idea of making our Reunions, first FUN, second EASY for our Veterans in travel and planning, third MEMORABLE for all so that their legacy remains with us as the "Youngsters" and finally with an aim to HONOR and TEACH what they did for these United States of America. I have commented to many of you that I would not be what I am today without the sacrifice of these men we continue to honor. As I reread Virgil Morgan's message from last year, I was struck by his prescient message of "change" that was needed for the 6th Bomb Group. His statement: "We are so fortunate to have 6th children that will take over the difficult and unseen activities for the few of us still left" was an inspiration to me today rereading it. Little did I think when I first read this in the June Newsletter that I would be asked to lead the "6th children" in this endeavor Virgil outlined. It is an honor and I thank you for the opportunity. Let's move on to our future. The next Reunion is shaping up very well in the enthusiastic hands of Robert and Gail Ritter. Yes, Milwaukee, Wisconsin has many fascinating things for us to do and see as Robert has already selected. Besides, we cannot forget that it is virtually the home of American Beer! We are very fortunate that Robert is well connected in the Community and will provide us with some interesting surprises about Milwaukee. We have all of the same willing volunteers from the past standing ready to assist in any way needed.

I would also like to comment on the amazing growth of Warren Higgins original idea of our Scholarship Fund. This is a wonderful way for our members to carry on the legacy of the 6th in the most productive of ways: EDUCATION. The charge is led by Jeannie Holmes and her enthusiastic "Auctions", silent and otherwise, as they have become a part of our Reunion and will serve our purpose well.

Lori Forsman has come up with a wonderful idea to form a Group for our widows so they remain involved and always feel a part of us. I know my own Mother went through this with the loss of my Father and if we can do something to help this, we will. News to follow on this and other ideas as they evolve.

Again, many thanks to Larry Dananay and all of his volunteers for the Charleston Reunion. Our hearts are with your family over the loss of his Father, Milan, as we continue to lose great men, but remember and honor all of them.

I look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall Colors of Milwaukee, Wisconsin in early October 2013.

☆ John R. Creek, Jr. ☆



FROM THE EDITOR



There are a number of things you'll notice in this newsletter that are new and different. First, it's the largest newsletter we've ever done with far more photos, more articles and an expanded Eunice's Corner. Regarding the photos and articles, there were too many good ones to pass up, and the listing of deceased members is an aging issue that is beyond anyone's control.

Then page one written by Larry Dananay while filling in during my absence. He not only covered the wrap up of the reunion but played a key role in everything relating to it! I'm sure we all share the younger generation's thoughtful interest in keeping the 6th Bomb Group alive and well.

Turning to page two you'll notice a new face across from mine. John R. Creek, Jr. has been elected our new president as Bob Reagan passed the torch on to him and another of the younger generation is welcomed into a new role in his life. And speaking for the 6th Seniors, "We proudly welcome him and will fully support his role going forward". I probably shouldn't talk about things that occurred while not being able to attend, but from what others have told me about the reunion a couple of highlights that in the past have always appealed to the younger attendees as well as to those of us who called Tinian home for awhile, were the two Veteran's "Round table war stories". One at the hospitality room and one at the Air Base. Also you'll note on page 3 Rob Ritter, son of long time reunion attendee Charles, invites us all to the October 2013 Reunion in Milwaukee, WI. For those of you living out of the midwest it's between Minnesota and Michigan and known for beer, brats, cheese of course and friendly people. More to follow on this in the June Newsletter when "Team Ritter", captained by Rob shares with the Editor his plate full of activities. It's a reunion you'll not want to miss.

☆ William B. Webster ☆



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WHERE IN THE WORLD IS DAVE FARQUHAR?



Many at the reunion were asking where long time attendee Dave Farquhar was this year. He and Emil Dananay, both POW's, were crew mates and were always present to pass on their stories of being shot down over the Empire and spending the remainder of the war as POWs. Below is an excerpt from a BlogSpot Article explaining Dave's return to Japan in early October 2012 and revisiting the infamous Kempei Tai stalls as he attempts to put closure to that time in his life. For the full article go to this link: <http://americanpowsof-japan.blogspot.com/2012/10/ten-days-in-october.html>

An Edited Excerpt from American POW's of Japan Blog-spot.

For the third time in as many years, seven nonagenarian veterans of World War II become "guests of Emperor." These men were tortured, starved, beaten, and forced to work in dangerous conditions by Imperial Japan as prisoners of war. Unlike their first trip to Japan, which was by Hell Ship or parachute, they traveled by a first class ticket on a Japanese airline.

Initiated in 2010, the visitation program for American former POWs of Japan is a model for Japanese government war apologies. There is a formal presentation of an apology and a concerted act of contrition. It is unfortunate, however, that the Japanese Government does not publicize this successful program and has not pushed the Japanese companies that were complicit in the torture and abuse of the POWs to also acknowledge and apologize. Indeed, the companies have been largely silent and some have refused to allow these elderly men to revisit the sites of their first stay in Japan.



David G. Farquhar, Jr., 90, resides among orange groves in Redlands, California where he has lived all his life. He joined the U.S. Army Air Force in 1942. He trained in Nebraska and was assigned as a Technical Sergeant to General Curtis LeMay's 20th Air Force, 24th Squadron, 313th Bomb Wing, 6th bomb group, Crew #2404. He was sent with the 6th Bomb Group to Tinian in the Northern Marianas in January 1945. Farquhar participated in 18 missions over the Pacific and Mainland Japan. On May 23, 1945, he was a turret gunner when his B-29 was shot down over Tokyo by flak and fighter planes. He and his 11 crewmates all bailed out safely and were captured.

They were taken to the infamous horse stalls outside of the Kempei Tai (military police of the Imperial Army) Headquarters in Tokyo near the Emperor's palace.

They were not considered POWs but "special prisoners" who were war criminals. Beaten, starved, and tortured, they were denied clothes, basic hygiene, and medical treatment. On August 15th, the day Japan surrendered, he was transferred to a cell at Tokyo Base Camp #1 Omori where he was liberated August 28, 1945. Omori was the first POW camp liberated. After a series of hospital stays he was discharged in 1946 and returned to San Diego State College (today's San Diego State University) for a BA in Engineering. He then obtained an MA in Education from the University of Redlands. From 1950 to 1993, Farquhar taught both junior high and high school mathematics and science. He has been married to Jacqueline for nearly 66 years. He currently tends his orange grove, serves on various boards, and participates in community activities.

POW# Not known to "special prisoners", Member of American Ex-Prisoners of War.

OCTOBER REUNION IN MILWAUKEE

with details to follow in June Newsletter

Hello 6th group friends,
It gives the Ritter Family from Milwaukee great satisfaction to announce the initial details about the October 6th Bomb Group annual reunion. The dates will be our standard Thursday - Sunday format the first weekend in October. The specific dates are Oct. 3 - 6, 2013. We have been very fortunate to be able to have booked another Hilton Garden Hotel property which we so enjoyed last year. This particular hotel is from 1882 and is just a classic beauty. It was Northwestern Insurance Company's first headquarters and was opened three months ago. We were able to get a nightly rate of \$129.00 and this includes breakfast and a grand hospitality room. My bet in a year from now this will be three times as much. The hotel is very old school and just wonderful. I especially like the fact that it is in a perfect location in downtown Milwaukee close to everything in walkable or free shuttle to get around modes. We have some glorious adventures set up for the group to enjoy. This will include the following: #1 Harley Davidson motor cycle museum tour which will include a WW II talk which is only specific to our group. I am hoping to get the founder's daughter and friend to come down and make the guys feel real special like they are. #2 Miller Brewery tour with a tasting of course at the end. The brewery is hoping to have their own veteran group at the plant talk and interface with some of our guys which would be just great. #3 Watch an incredible movie documentary about The Honor Flight program which was produced in Milwaukee and is playing at theaters across the nation right



now. Hopefully this will be at the historic Grain Exchange Building across from our hotel. #4 Eleanor Roosevelt will be making a grand appearance at some point of the weekend. #5A splendid closing Saturday function will be held at the historic Wisconsin Club. This magnificent mansion is a landmark in the city and is considered one of the finest establishments in the midwest. It was the home of General Billy

Mitchell whom the airport is named after. Treat yourselves and google this site! More details and pricing will be ready for the June newsletter, but I wanted to get some preliminary info for Bill Webster and the January issue to save the date and start to generate some chatter. With the close of this letter I would like to give my personal condolences to the Dananay Family for their loss of their father this last December. I'm sure I speak for everybody in saying he will be missed dearly. He lived life to the fullest for 95 great years and has two wonderful boys

Steve and Larry that add so much to the family called the 6th Bomb Group to help prove it. Steve Dananay and myself came up with this theme before we left Charleston last year. "Beer, Brats, and Bombers Dammit" which sounded good at the time late Saturday night. We are always interested in any ideas for refinement on this theme. Gayle, Will and myself along with my dad Charles & Clara Daniels along with his other seven sons and multitude of grandchildren are really looking forward to another fantastic reunion and showing off our great city and lake.

Sincerely Rob Ritter



B-29A-60BW 44-69736 39th BS/6th BG Look Homeward Angel. North Field, Tinian March 1945
Crew #3905 (A/C Capt. John D. Ralph was assigned LHA. 6th BG-JAN.1945

B-29 SUPERFORTRESS

Purpose: Very Heavy Bomber (increased speed, range, and bomb load)
Features included pressurized cabin, electronic fire control system, remote-controlled gun turrets.

Manufacturer: Boeing

First Flown: September 21, 1942

Intro to Service: May 8, 1944

Service Users: U.S. Army Air Forces, U.S. Air Force, Royal Air Force

Production Years: 1943-1946

Number Built: 3,970

Unit Cost: \$639,188.00 (Today's Dollars 8.62 Million)

Dimensions:

Wingspan: 141 feet 3 inches

Length: 99 feet 0 inches

Height: 27 feet 9 inches

Wing Area: 1736 square feet

Aspect Ratio: 11.58

Airfoil: Boeing 117

Flaps: Fowler

Powerplant:
Four Wright R-3350-41 Duplex Cyclone eighteen-cylinder air-cooled radial engines with each having two General Electric Turbochargers, delivering 2200 hp for takeoff with a war emergency rating of 2300 hp.

Range:

Ferry Range: (no bombs) 5830 miles

Combat Range: (with 20,000 lbs. bombs) 3250 miles

Weights:

69,000 lbs. empty and 137,000 lbs. loaded

Bomb Load: 20,000 lbs (40 x 500 lbs)



6TH BOMB GROUP

The Sixth Bomb Group, who trained here, was deployed in 1944. Their B-29's were technologically the greatest bomber construction of Tinian's North Field, the Sixth's base, was a single construction project of WWII. It continues today to be an airfield ever operated by the United States Air Force. The first B-29 flown by any aircraft in WWII were flown by the Sixth, which was on the night of 11 July, 1945. The B-29 "Enola Gay" base on the atomic mission with the Sixth's Circle R tail insignia. The B-29 was displayed at the Smithsonian in our historic 6th BG mark. The campaigns helped to bring an end to WWII, without an estimated 500,000 lives.

"Sacrifices, fears and loneliness were endured by those of their dependents in the States, during this period. We pray again suffer such extreme and devastating warfare."



This marker sponsored by the 6th Bomb Group Association

President Virgil Morgan's message to the people of Grand Island

It's a pleasure for me to express my knowledge of the Sixth Bomb Group Association. We arrived here in May, 1944, as a top secret bomb group, due to the, then new, B-29 bomber we were training to fly in the Air Offensive Japan campaign, which brought World War II to an end without the necessity of an invasion on Japan. The invasion would have cost countless lives, but we in the Sixth lost 71 men either killed or missing in action (MIA). In addition we found, at war's end, 36 of our men were shot down, and were Prisoners of War who suffered extremely brutal conditions during their captivity. 68 years ago, we young men knew all too well what peace would cost, and we have never forgotten our comrades.

We also knew how well we had been treated by the great people of Grand Island, and that too, has never been forgotten. We had a group reunion here 15 years ago, and we were again treated very well. Grand Island will always be the place we remember with fond state-side memories. We have left traces of our presence here, in the pictures displayed in the airport terminal and the B-29 Propeller Monument 6th Bomb Group Association

erected at your Veteran's Park.

We cherish you all, and thank you for what you did for us, in preparation to do what we could for all of you, and the United States of America.

Richard Sidders' Speech at the Dedication

Hello Ladies and Gentlemen and all the great children in our group. My name is Richard Marvel Sidders. Better known as Dick Sidders. I was born, raised and educated in Giltner, Nebraska. Although I have lived 44 years in California, Nebraska is still home to me.

One day on the small island of Tinian, thousands of miles away from Giltner, there were 4 Giltner High graduates there: Bill Robertshaw, Jim Ready, Ray Brown and myself, Dick Sidders. What a coincidence!

I am proud to have the honor of speaking for my comrades of the 6th Bomb Group Association. We started our training here at Grand Island in B-17 Bombers. The B-29's were just coming off the assembly line.

When my pilot, J.D. Ralph got our own B-29, on our first ride I thought there was no way 4 - 2,200 H.P. engines could get this big thing in the

OMEWARD
EL

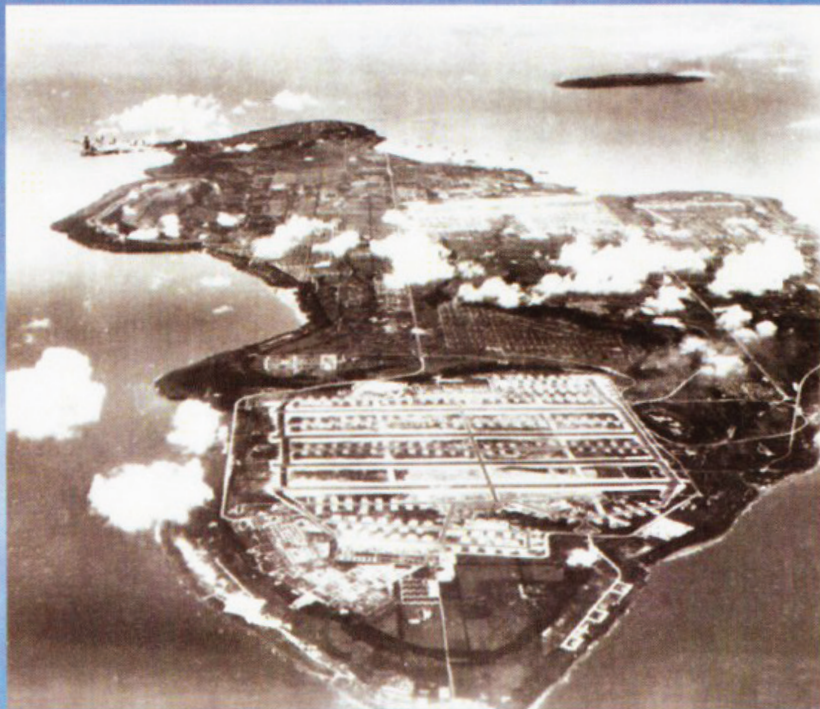
GROUP

ed to Tinian Island in December
mbers of World War II. The
was the largest, most expensive
to be the largest and busiest
he longest combat missions
when ports in Korea were mined
sed at the Sixth BG flew the first
he plane is now permanently
arkings. The climactic bombing
invasion of Japan, saving an

stationed on Tinian, as well as
pray that the world may never

Association & Virgil Morgan

TINIAN ISLAND



Tinian Island was captured from the Japanese and declared secure August 2, 1944 after the June 15, 1944 assault of Saipan, Tinian and Guam Islands at a cost of over 16,000 American Soldiers.

The B-29s of the 313th Bomb Wing were based at North Field. The 313th Bomb Wing included the 6th, 9th, 504th, 505th, and 509th Bomb Groups. Almost immediately after the invasion, over 15,000 Seabees (the 6th and the 107th Naval Construction Battalions) began constructing North Field by converting the old Japanese Airfield.

The Seabees were able to construct much of the base using crushed coral. Starting with the northernmost strip, Seabees constructed four airstrips designated A ("Able"), B ("Baker"), C ("Charlie") and D ("Dog"). In order to pave the coral runways and roads Seabees constructed an asphalt plant at the site. The first 6th Bomb Group airplanes landed on Tinian January 18, 1945 less than 4 months after construction began.

and World War II experience of the 6th Bomb Group on the plaque was terrific.

Virgil Morgan has been a great contributor both educationally and financially to the 6th Bomb Group Association. He alone financed the propeller and construction of it at the Veterans Park, as well as, a large contributor on the plaque that we're unveiling today.

Last but not least, I can not leave out a fine Grand Island tile man, Bill Ziller, who replaced and rebuilt the platform that the propeller is on, at no charge to the 6th Bomb Group. Bill said it was for the punishment we gave to Japan, and for the B-29's that woke him up in the mornings so he could get ready for school.

To all of you I have left out mentioning, I thank you for your contributions to the plaque.

In closing I want all of you grown ups to tell your children that due to the bravery of millions of younger men and women, you are still able to use our English Language as the number one language in our schools.

Thank you all. God Bless the United States of America.

air. The next thing I was looking down at Phillip's water tower. That's when I knew, my commander knew, that what they were planning for us was the right thing to do.

The most exciting thing that happened during training in Grand Island was when Captain Richard landed the B-29 with the wheels up. He made a perfect landing, although, the plane never flew again. When the plane came to a stop all crew members got out of the plane and ran into the corn field along the runway. My good friend Charles Pitts, Captain Richard's gunner, kept running straight to his car, jumped in, and drove to his wife in Doniphan. The Military Police were at their apartment before he got there and took him back for interrogation.

I was tail gunner on J.D. Ralph's crew on North Field. We completed 27 missions over Japan from altitudes of 8,000 feet up to 29,000 feet. It was a 13 hour round trip

from the Mariana Islands to Japan, LONG TRIP!

With extreme pleasure I want to take this time to thank some fine Grand Island people who have made it possible for this historic plaque to be unveiled today. Mike Olson, who is director of the Grand Island Regional Airport suggested that we place this plaque into the historical spot which was accepted a few years ago. With his help it has now become a reality.

Ken Hillegas, of the Historical Society, with his knowledge and guidance he helped in establishing this plaque. Don Deitmeier, of Lamar Signs is the big reason why this plaque is being unveiled today. With his great knowledge of how to display the historical



6th Bomb Group Plaque Dedicated September 8, 2012
at Central Nebraska Regional Airport at Grand Island





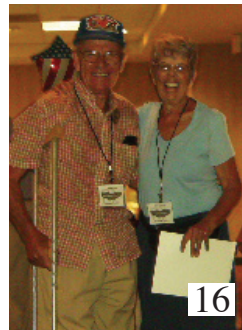
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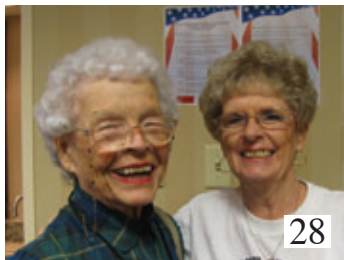
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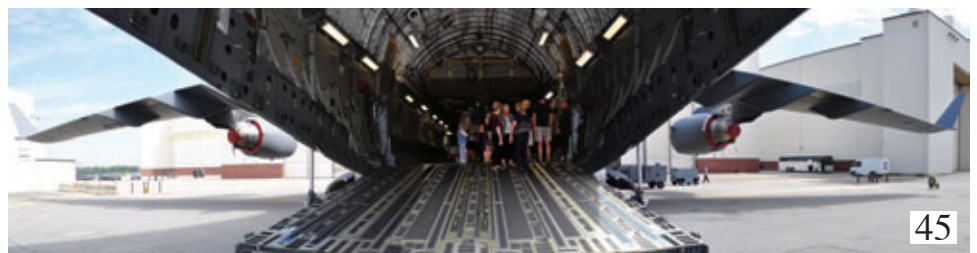
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Back Row: Willis Kunz, Ed Vincent, Herb Horst, Warren Higgins,
Charles Pitts, Robert Frick, Robert Reagan, Paul Dietzel, Charles Ritter
Front Row: William Litzenberg, Jerry Benesh, Robert Reed, Don Gleacher, Emil Dananay,
George Gresko, Marty Eichelman, Richard Randall, Richard Sidders



Left to Right: William Brake, Charles Ritter, Robert Frick, William Litzenberg, Richard Randall,
Emil Dananay, Willis Kunz, Don Gleacher, Jerry Benesh, Herb Horst, Robert Weber,
Ed Vincent, Warren Higgins, Marty Eichelman, Dr Lewis Graham, Robert Reagan,
George Gresko, Richard Sidders, Charles Pitts, Robert Reed

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2. Dananay family at banquet
3. Veterans round table in the archive history room
4. Bob Reagan
5. Bill Brake and Bill Litzenberg
6. Ed Vincent and Robert Weber
7. Dick Sidders and Charles Pitts
8. Phil Conroy and the Higgins family
9. Larry Dananay at the banquet auction
10. Bob Reagan and Lewis Graham
11. Jerry Benesh and Herb Horst
12. Eric Lavender and Bird Doser
13. Dave Farquhar at POW reconciliation meeting in Tokyo
14. Emil Dananay presented with purple heart tie and watch
15. Japanese - American POW friendship program medallion
16. Don and Dodie Gleacher
17. Bob Reagan and daughter Kathy Omiston
18. Bob Reagan
19. Jeanne Holmes and Paul Dietzel at the book auction
20. The Vincents, Horsts and Sullivans at the 1776 Restaurant
21. Banquet night
22. Group photo under the wing of a C17
23. Emil Dananay
24. George Gresko
25. The Higgins family
26. The Eichelmanns and the Handys are all smiles
27. Clara Daniels and Charles Ritter
28. Connie Graham and Glenda Richards
29. Bob and Millie Frick
30. Dave Wilson with handouts at banquet
31. Matt DeLima testing flight apparel
32. The Litzenberg family
33. Eric Lavender entertaining
34. Four generations of the Randall family
35. Captain Scoggin and Marty Eichelman
36. A carriage tour of the city
37. Post reunion cruise at the Bahamas
38. Downtown tour
39. Jeanne Holmes at the controls
40. Willis and Margaret Kunz with Herb Horst on carriage tour
41. Future Randall pilot
42. "Captain" Glenda Richards at the helm
43. Veterans under the wing of a C17
44. Inside a C17
45. Loading area of a C17

"Ace Photographers" throughout this issue can be attributed to the following: Lori Forsman, Larry Dananay, Phil Conroy, Carole Sullivan, John Handy, (and a few others the Editor may have missed).

Tinian Today- 747 aircraft made historic landing on Tinian, Nov. 28, 2012

First, there was the historic landing of a KC-130J Hercules aircraft on Baker Runway on North Field and the arrestments of F/A-18 Hornets on the West Field during Operation Geiger Fury in May. Now comes another first as the Marines landed a 747 aircraft on Tinian West Field. The aircraft is hauling all of the cargo for operations on Tinian International [Airport], specifically the safety arrested landing equipment, fuel storage bladders, fire fighting vehicles and a runway debris sweeper.

Marines participating in Operation Forager Fury arrived on Tinian a few days earlier to receive the equipment off the 747 to have the airfield ready to receive F/A-18 Hornets on Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Aside from the historic landing of a commercial 747 aircraft on Tinian's runways, Forager Fury 2012 is also bringing to Tinian for the first time its MV-22 Ospreys around the 1st of December. MVV-22 tilt-rotor aircraft will begin flight operations the 10th of December and will execute various missions throughout the northern Marianna. This is the first deployment for the MV-22 outside of Japan and is a considerable boost in capability for operations. It was reported earlier that the Marine Corps is replacing their 1950s vintage CH-46 helicopters with MV-22 because of the latter's revolutionary capabilities. The Osprey is twice as fast as the CH-46, can carry three times the payload and has approximately four times the combat radius.

VALOR TOURS, LTD.

Offers a return to Tinian for the 6th Bomb Group
March 12 - 19, 2013
Escorted by Prof. Andy Giles

For brochures with further details on itinerary, prices, etc. call Valor Tours, Ltd. at 1-800-842-4504
or E-mail: valortours@yahoo.com
10 Liberty Ship Way, Suite 110, Sausalito, CA 94965

In 1945 the sites of Tinian associated with the atomic strike missions carried the highest 'top secret' rating. A half-century later as the twentieth century was drawing to its close, the story of what happened on the Pacific island – and in Japan – was rated the top news story of the century. But the Tinian story in WWII has many more chapters. The construction of the huge runways at North Field and the supporting facilities amounted to one of the largest engineering feats performed in the war. The huge fleets of B29's that took off from those runways to mount their devastating assault on Japan were without equal in any other theater. The fight to capture the island in the first place was a masterpiece of planning and execution. All this, and much more, make this tour ideal for the veteran, historian, family members of the bomb crews and Seabees, and anyone seeking to understand the massive air assault on Japan in 1945. The story of what these fighting servicemen did in those extraordinary times lifted Tinian from a significant page in an atlas to a key chapter in world history.



HISTORY OF THE ENOLA GAY PHOTO

By MfSgt. William M. Brake

We had just returned from a night bombing mission over Japan and had disembarked from our war weary B -29. It was another long mission under our belt and we were waiting for the army truck to pick us up and take us back to the squadron for debriefing and some needed sack time. As we stood around waiting for our ride back to the squadron I noticed a new arrival to our area sitting a couple of hardstands (airplane parking area) away. However this B-29 was not like any of the other B-29's sitting on their hardstands in our squadron area. It was bright and shiny, had different propellers (something a flight engineer would notice) and didn't have any gun turrets. It also didn't have our group insignia painted on the tail. Instead it had a large black arrow facing forward in a circle painted on the vertical fin. I thought that it must be a photo recon aircraft, stripped down for more speed and longer range flight. It was such a beautiful airplane that I decided that I needed to take a picture of it and send it home along with some other photos taken on Tinian . So that is exactly what I did not realizing until fifty-two years later, when going through some old war photos in my Bomb Group Album, that I had taken a picture of the ENOLA GAY the day that it arrived on Tinian. That was the last time I saw that airplane with the arrow on the tail in our squadron area. Because of the Japanese spies hiding out in the coral caves on both



Tinian and Saipan who would radio information to Japan about any B -29 arrivals or departures from the Air Fields. The Air Corp used some trickery to confuse the spies by changing the insignia on the vertical fin of the airplanes of the 509th Bomb Group, so that they would blend in with the other squadrons on Tinian North Field

Milton Sprouse a crew member from the 509th Bomb Group in an interview at their 1994 reunion stated that the first night that they were on Tinian the black arrow was removed from the vertical fin of all fifteen airplanes of the 509th Bomb Group and they were repainted with a new insignia on the vertical fin so that they looked like all the other airplanes in the squadron. The arrow on the vertical fin of the ENOLA GAY

was replaced with the 6th Bomb Group Insignia that consisted of a black R inside a black circle, so that come daylight it now looked like all the other 6th Bomb Group airplanes sitting on their hardstands.

For the Japanese spies hiding in the caves on Tinian there radio message to Japan was that those airplanes with the black arrow had mysteriously disappeared.

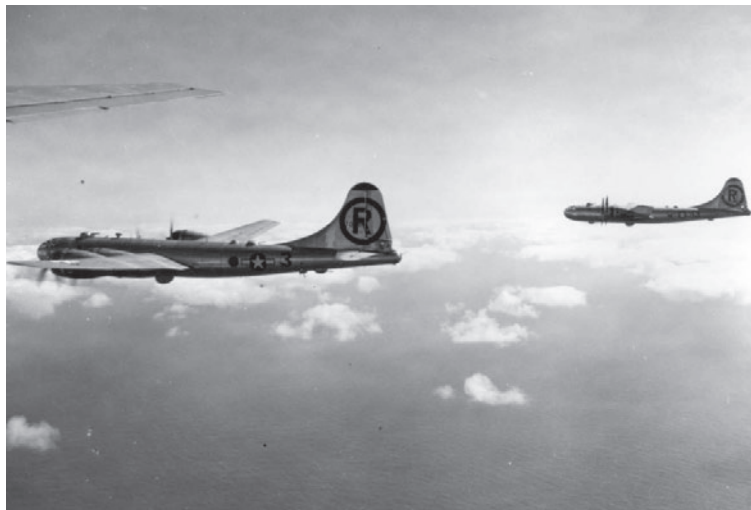
EDITOR'S NOTE: We did not obtain the actual photo taken by W.M. Brake. The photos accompanying this article are stock photos of the ENOLA GAY before and after the tail insignia was changed for the mission, and the Circle R is now the way it is in the Udvar Hazy Smithsonian Museum.

THEY SHOT DOWN OUR "BLIND DATE" OVER TOKYO

By Robert A. Franz

Tailgunner, 24th Squadron, 6th Bomb Group

Flack was pretty heavy that night and so were the Japanese night fighters. Our plane was named "Blind Date" and our crew consisted of the following: John Boyington, airplane commander; Rollin Heidlebaugh, pilot; Kenneth Creech, Albert Romoser, Roger L. Townsend, Stephen Spegas, Frank Massey, David Farquhar, Franklin S. Green, Emil Dananay , and myself. We were shot down near Tokyo, but all members of the crew managed to get out alive. Most of the crew were taken prisoner soon after they bailed out. I managed to hide out for seven days on a wooded hillside. During the day I watched the Japanese people working in a rice paddy down below me, and slept in my parachute at night. The only food I had during this time was two chocolate bars that I had on me when I bailed out of the plane. I would slip down at night and drink water from the rice paddy. A Japanese lady happened to walk by one day , and spotted me. She left the area and soon returned with several of the villagers who carried weapons of various types. I was turned over to the Japanese officers, who walked me to their prison. I was then put aboard a train and taken to Kempi Tai, a prison for "captives" --we weren't considered prisoners-- which had previously been used as horse stables. At Kempi Tai I was reunited with most of my crew and placed in an 8 by 11 1/2 foot cell which held sixteen captives. That was the last time I saw daylight until after the atomic bomb



was dropped. Around the 15th of August, the guards herded us into the bay to take a bath and try to rid ourselves of the sores on our bodies which had developed from flea bites we had received in our cells. This was our first bath since May 23rd. We had not even been given water to wash our hands. We were taken to Omari POW Camp,

which was located between Tokyo and Yokohama. Our rations were greatly improved from the daily rice balls we had received at Kempi Tai. Efforts were also made to improve our weakened physical condition before we were turned over to American control. After we were liberated, we were carried on stretchers on board the hospital ship "Benevolence," which was anchored in Tokyo Bay near the battleship "Missouri" on which the surrender ceremonies took place. My brother was serving on the "Missouri," but neither knew the other was in Tokyo Bay that day.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We erroneously stated in a story that appeared in Volume I of "The Global Twentieth" that only one B-29 crew of the 20th Air Force was liberated intact after confinement as Japanese prisoners-of-war. Robert Franz wrote to let us know that his entire crew (that included Emil Dananay and David Farquhar) also survived the horrors of POW camp living. - CM

Found this in Volume II of "The Global Twentieth - An Anthology of the 20th Air Force in World War II" by Chester Marshall.



- ✱ **Floyd Deterding** - Born on Dec. 7, 1915. He died on January 20, 2012. Floyd joined the Army in 1935. History marked his 26th birthday with the Japanese attack on him and his compatriots at Clark Field in the Philippine Islands. The B-17-equipped 19th Bomb Group was a prime military target. Floyd, along with General MacArthur and a few other key personnel were the fortunate soldiers who escaped from Bataan only hours ahead of the Japanese advance. They soon had another close escape before eventually making it to Australia. Floyd remained in Australia for almost a year and his unit participated in the famous naval Battle of the Coral Sea. He joined the 6th Bomb Group as Chief Maintenance Officer on Tinian Island to work on the bombers delivering the atom bomb. At war's end his next assignment once again placed him in history's wake as he returned to the Pacific where drone aircraft he'd help develop were flown through the mushroom clouds exploded hydrogen bombs over Enewetak atoll. He then served in the American embassy in France and by the end of 1958, Floyd had decided to retire from the Air Force as a Lt. Colonel and family settled in Tallahassee, FL. He finished his Masters in Education at Florida State and did substantial doctoral work before taking a dual position teaching classes at both the university and the small demonstration school already beginning to be known, unofficially, as Florida High. During his 20 year tenure at FSU and Florida High, he was teacher and mentor to thousands of college and high school students who remember "Mr. D" their favorite teacher. For many, he was the one who taught them the truly valuable lessons that they carried through their lives and handed down to their own children.
- ✱ **Theodore J. "Ted" Killen** of Tinley Park, IL passed away June 26, 2012. He was a Staff Sergeant in the 40th Squadron, Left Gunner on Earthquake McGoon. Age 86, WWII U.S. Army Air Force Veteran, Purple Heart recipient. Beloved husband of the late Shirley, nee Runge. Loving father of David Killen and Diane (Glenn) Lane. Cherished grandfather of Pamela (Jason) Petak, Amanda Lane, and Dustin Lane. Dearest great-grandfather of Shane, Dylan, and Gavin.
- ✱ **Milan "Emil" Dananay** of N. Kensington, PA on December 17, 2012 the 6th Bomb Group lost a long time member and familiar face, Emil Dananay. Emil was part of the 24th Squadron, Crew #2404. "Blind Date/Ladies Delight". On the night of May 23-24, 1944 on their 18th mission, the crew was shot down over Tokyo and was held as Special Prisoners in Kempei Tai and Omori Prison Camps until the end of the war. His decorations and citations include the Purple Heart, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, American Campaign Medal, Prisoner of War Medal and World War II Victory Medal. Emil loved to attend the reunions with his sons Larry and Steve and had just recently returned from the 24th reunion in Charleston, SC. Emil was a faithful member of John Huss Evangelical Lutheran Church of Arnold, where he served as a past president of the congregation as well as a Sunday school teacher. His beloved wife of 59 years, Julia (Dziobak) Dananay, preceded him in death in May 2008. Surviving crewmembers include Dave Farquhar and Steven Spega.
- ✱ **Joseph P. Driskell** of Frankfort, KY passed away February 20, 2012. Joe's wife, Dot, passed just one month later in March. Joe was a Ground Crew Chief, Staff Sergeant, 39th Squadron.
- ✱ **Philip S. Mather** of Columbus, GA passed away December 2011. Philip was with the Crew #4004. He was the Staff Sergeant Radio/Radar man on "Tojo's Nightmare", 40th Squadron.
- ✱ **John J. Wright, Jr.** of Weatherford, TX passed away December 24, 2011. John was with Crew #3911, 1st Lt., Navigator on "Forever Amber II", 39th Squadron.
- ✱ **Loyd Goodhart** of Wernersville, PA passed away on April 30, 2012
- ✱ **Warren "Moe" Moyer** of Scottsdale, AZ passed away September 12, 2012. He was a 2nd Lt. and Pilot in the 39th Squadron and hoped to attend the Charleston reunion his wife June said as he thoroughly enjoyed the camaraderie of his 6th Bomb Group friends.
- ✱ **Frederick H. Etherington** of Bryn Mawr, PA passed away November 12, 2009. 6th Bomb Group Headquarters Staff.
- ✱ **Leon L. Steward** passed away in 1988? He was a T/Sergeant CFC Crew #4012 "Flak Alley Sally".
- ✱ **Nolan A. Beale** of Augusta, ME passed away November 5, 2002. He was a Cpl in the 39th Squadron Ground Crew.
- ✱ **Charles L. Boyd** of Houston, TX passed away October 28, 2005. He was a Staff Sergeant in the 40th Squadron, Radio "Gravel Gertie".
- ✱ **Joseph D. Duggan** of St. Louis, MO passed away September 8, 2009. He was a Staff Sergeant in the 40th Squadron, Radio, Crew #4001.
- ✱ **Howard J. Goodyear** of Cumming, IA passed away March 10, 2008. He was a Sergeant in the 39th Squadron, Radio, Crew #3914 "Forever Amber".
- ✱ **Leo H. Ortbals, Jr.** from Madison Heights, MI passed away. He was a PFC Armorer in the 40th Squadron.
- ✱ **Marion L. Long** from Washington, IN passed away November 23, 2012. He was a Left Blister Gunner with Crew #2404. He flew in 14 combat missions, the "Show of Force" mission and 2 POW supply missions.
- ✱ **Albert S. Dimsha** of Las Cruces, NM passed away December 23, 2012. He was a T/Sgt in the 39th Squadron, Flight Engineer "Snugglebunny".
- ✱ **Charles O. Catherman** of North Cumberland, PA passed away January 24, 2012. He was a Cpl in the 39th Squadron, Armorer.
- ✱ **Abraham (Abe) Lerman** of Boca Raton, FL passed away February 16, 2010. He was a Pfc. in the 39th Squadron, received the Japan Campaign Star.
- ✱ **Chester J. Robinson** of Cortland Manor, NY passed away November 7, 2002. He was in the 24th Squadron, T/Sgt., Ground Crew Chief.
- ✱ **Myron A. Christensen** of Lincoln, NE passed away September 13, 2009. He was a 1st Lt and A/C with Crew #4004 (later 4015).

Eunice Plax maintains the "place of record" for deceased 6th Bomb Group Members. Please send information to: Eunice Plax, 10312 West Talisman Road, Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 875-0501 or eunicep@cox.net

We Get Letters...

My name is Clarence Pressgrove. I was the right gunner on the *Peacemaker*. Our Airplane Commander was Bill Grounds. On March 28, 1945, our plane was one of the 30 crews to fly the mission of laying mines for the Navy in the Shimonoseki Straits. As we were making our Turning Point to come back to Tinian a flack boat took one shot and hit the number 3 engine. It also blew out all the pilots' instruments and blew a large hole between the Radio room and the Radar room. Our flight engineer, Neil Cooper used the fire extinguisher. We thought

the fire was out but it was a windy night and the fire started up heading towards the wings, so Bill Grounds rang the bell and said 'fellows I'll see you down below'. On the ground, we were captured. The co-pilot Ollin Williams and I were put into solitary confinement. We were put in 6' 3" cribs that you had to crawl into like a dog. I was a great athlete, 6'

2" 198 lbs. I didn't have much room. We had a straw mat to sleep on, and we were fed a small white ball of rice and water and were beat and tortured. I lost 64 lbs.

After the atomic bomb was dropped we were moved to the largest prison camp Omori. On August 29, 1945 the Marines liberated us and put on LST's and took us to the Navy Hospital Ship, the *Benevolence*. There we were given a shower which we hadn't had in 6 months, and a doctor and dentist checked us all over. Since our stomachs had shrunk from lack of food, we had to be careful how much we ate. After they decided it was safe to travel, we were put on a cruiser and were on our way back to the states again. Our next stop was Lennerman General Hospital to start getting ourselves back to normal. Because our stomachs had shrunk we had to eat four meals a day, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and a late snack. Again we were checked over by the doctors and dentists. After they decided it was safe to travel we were flown to our nearest hospital, in my case because I lived in Illinois they sent me to

Vaughan General Hospital. When they felt we were well enough they gave us a 90 day furlough which I spent with my sister and girlfriend. While I was in prison I said if I get out of here I'm going to buy a car. I had my Brother-In-Law take me out looking for cars. I found this beautiful Blue Chevy Coupe I fell in love with. After the 90 days went by I went back to Vaughan General Hospital. On March 9, 1946 when I was discharged I spoke with this psychiatrist and he said, "Soldier you have two choices, you can keep it clammed up or speak about it."

I chose the latter and became a keynote speaker. I've spoken at many B-29 reunions. I got married and moved to Florida. We had 3 wonderful children. I have diabetes and neuropathy of the feet and so my doctor suggested that I give up flying. I have been speaking locally to the ROTC's and high school students. The ROTC's here indoctrinated me into the Library

of Congress which is a great honor. I have a photographic memory and have written a wonderful book of my life going back to the depression time but unfortunately because of circumstances I cannot find an agent to present my work to a publisher, you see it is not what you know its who you know. Do you think there is a 6th Bomb Group member that knows an agent? The local paper asked if I would write my life story and I did. I'll send you a copy and a DVD of the last speech I made on January 18, 2012 to the students, and the local TV station covered it. What is great about it is Greg who put the DVD together for the school shows Tinian, me and group's insignia and other things. I will not be able to attend the Charleston reunion On August 8. I will be 89. We are getting old and are passing away like flies. I pray for every day I see the daylight. I think I gave you enough news about me. I hope I didn't bore you with my story.

Sincerely, Clarence Pressgrove
Phone: 561-967-1875

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Your Editor is reminded by one of our younger Associate Members that the Internet is alive and well in regards to communicating with others. So the suggestion has been made that any Regular and Associate Members who care to be "more communicative" with like-minded members, please send your email name/address to Lori Forsman LoriForsman@aol.com who has agreed to be "Chief Keeper" of all such information.

Report on our Treasury Balance

Treasury balance as of 12/23/12: \$8,943.27 with all invoices paid and no pending deposits or charges.



List of Charleston Reunion Attendees

Paul Dietzel, Anne Dietzel, Kathie DuTremble, Richard Sidders, Paula Baudisch, Robert Baudisch, Steve Hays, Marty Eichelman, Jeanne Eichelman, John B. Handy, Nancy Eichelman Handy, Charles Pitts, Juanita Pitts, Willis Kunz, Margaret Kunz, Robert Reagan, Jim Reagan, Kathy Omiston, Robert Frick, Millicent Frick, George Gresko, Marie Gresko, Mary Gresko, Jeanne Holmes, Jan Orchard, Glenda Richards, Francis Bates, Shirley Wilson Bates, Claudia Smith, Diane Smith, David Wilson, Martha Wilson, William Brake, Amy Brake, Brian Brake, Mike Brake, Dana Brake, Charles Ritter, Clara Daniels, Robert Ritter, Gayle Ritter, Steven Nichols, Don Gleacher, Dodie Gleacher, Phil Conroy, Cathy Conroy, John Creek, Renee Myers, Lynn Creek, Susan Williamson, Taylor Williamson, Megan O'Connor, Jerry Benesh, Paula Ann Thomson, Robert Weber, Katie Weber, Dr Lewis Graham, Connie Graham, Dr David Graham, Melody Graham, Richard Graham, Robert Reed, Marj Reed, Robert Mastrion, Mrs. Mastrion, Kathy Spellman, Kathy Calheiros, Carole Sullivan, Matthew DeLima, Richard Randall, Dr James M Randall, Joyce Buxton, James R. Randall, Julie Kaufmann, Jennifer Main, Riley Main, Katie Randall, Susan Randall, John Paul Randall, Kellen Randall, Natalie Randall, Audrey Buxton, Emil Dananay, Steve Dananay, Larry Dananay, Chris Dananay, Herb Horst, Alice Horst, John Horst, Warren Higgins, Maxine Higgins, Ris Higgins, Rob Higgins, Susan Voorhees, William Litzenberg, Pamela Litzenberg, Shedlock, Lori Litzenberg Forsman, Ward Litzenberg, Melody Litzenberg, Ed Vincent, Kent Vincent, Nancy Vincent



And In the Humor Column...

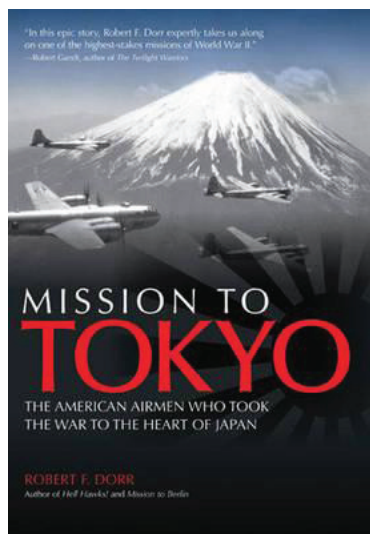
I am Jarrell R. Mitchell. I was in the 24th Squadron on Tinian. You ask for something humorous. In the early days as the B-29s were arriving a Marine offered me a cooked meal in exchange for a ride on a B-29. I accepted the offer since we were eating K rations in the box. In my route to his camp a hand grenade rolled out in front of me. After a few seconds on my stomach, I heard laughter. He had stripped it (grenade) of its fire power. I still have the grenade. I made a cigarette lighter out of it. I thank you for the 6th Bomb Group letter. I was hoping I could make the reunion but it doesn't look good. It's not my health. I am in pretty good shape. Thanks a million for what you do.



Jarrell R. Mitchell

Veterans Voyage at Sea - Follow Up

While most of us were packing up on Sunday for our trip home, Lori Forsman along with her dad Bill Litzenberg, Ward & Melody Litzenberg, Phil & Cathy Conroy, Pamela Shedlock and Ed, Kent & Nancy Vincent were boarding the Carnival Fantasy for the Veteran's Voyage at Sea. The trip departed Sunday, October 4th at 4:00 PM and returned on Friday morning October 12th. Nothing like an extended trip with fellow 6th Bomb Group members. Reports have it that everyone survived the casinos and still had their pants upon return to port. Lori is now looking for something out of Milwaukee in 2013. We'll keep you posted on that one.



The title is "Mission to Tokyo; The American Airmen Who Took The War To The Heart Of Japan". A new hardcover book, 328 pages total, authored by Robert F. Dorr, focuses on the March 10 fire raid on Tokyo but has info on other missions as well. Some personal interviews were done by Mr. Dorr to "flesh out" the history, and official Group Records were also used to keep things factual.

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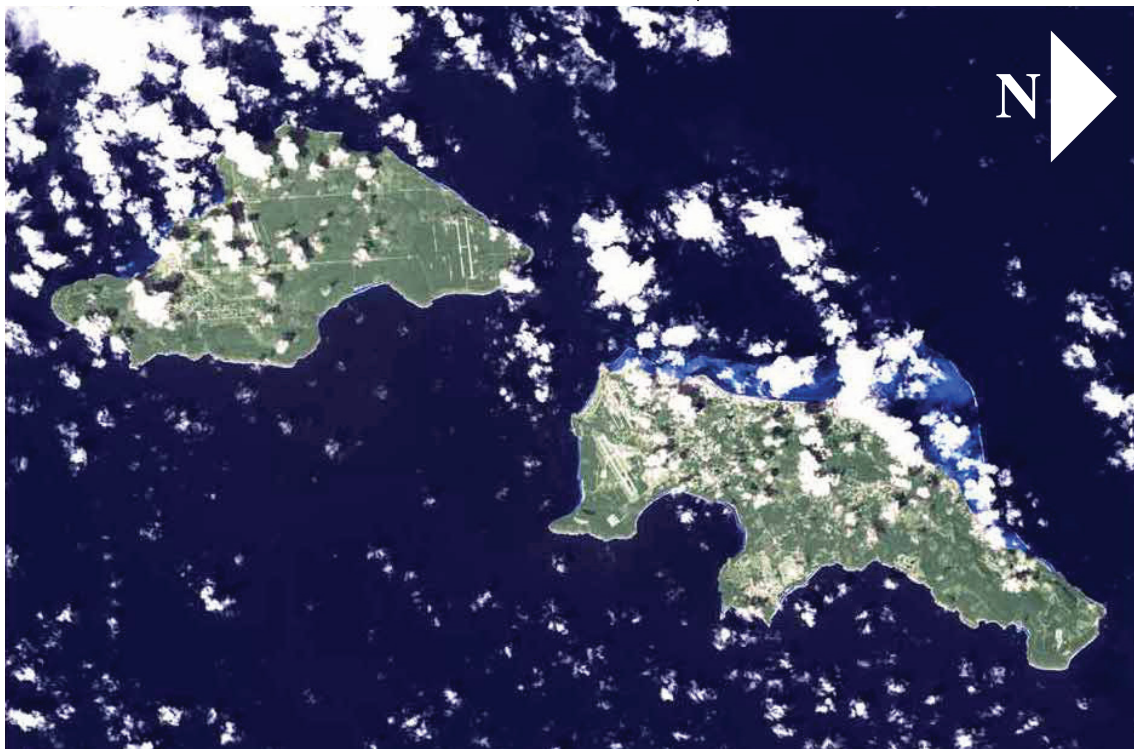
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"A Little known fact..."



To those who may have forgotten what it was like 68 years ago, the Guinness Book of World Records currently lists Tinian (*on the left*) and its neighboring island Saipan as having the best, most equitable, weather in the world.