

Dear Fellow Bomber Barons:

Well, here it is, that long awaited announcement. The Reunion is on and is scheduled for June 1-3, 1983, at the Henry VIII Inn and Lodge, St. Louis, Mo. An Inn brochure and registration card is enclosed. Their proposal, for single or double occupancy, of \$37.00 per night Deluxe Unit, or \$39.00 per night, Royal Unit (suite) can't be beat and they have sufficient facilities to house everyone if reservations are made early. These rates will prevail for those arriving early or staying beyond the Reunion dates.

I want to establish ground rules for this Reunion: (1) Wives and/or dependents are definitely encouraged to attend; (2) Each person attending will make their own reservations and pay for same; (3) Dress for the Reunion will be casual; (4) Tours will be on a pay-as-you-go basis; (5) A registration fee of \$35.00 per person will be sent to me. This is to handle the costs of the opening and closing banquets and the combo that will play for the dance following the closing banquet.

I will provide an accounting of all monies collected and disbursed. Any funds left over will go into a treasury of the 5th Bomb Group Association if one is formed, or returned to you all in an equitable manner. The Inn will provide a "Hospitality Room" that will be open during the entire Reunion. I am enclosing a form that must be filled out and returned to me along with your registration fee. I need to know the total numbers attending to plan the banquets (please give names and ages if not adults). The second part of the form to be returned is for the short tours. Look over the list and indicate on the space marked on the margin the order of preference and the number to take the tour, i.e., #1/2 or #3/2, etc. I will then arrange for the most popular tours to fit into the Reunion agenda. Please complete the forms and return it to me along with your registration fee by February 28, 1983, so that I can assure you of a well-coordinated, successful and enjoyable reunion.

The Agenda:

Wednesday, June 1, 1983 - Arrival, registration for lodging and report to the Hospitality Room, better known as THE 5th BOMB GROUP CASUALTY ROOM.
Wednesday evening, June 1, 7 p.m. - 8 p.m., assembly with open bar, Opening Banquet 8 p.m. to ? There will be some introductions, a proposal made to form an association and a cash bar for the remainder of the evening while we renew old acquaintances.

Thursday, June 2, 1983 - Short tours morning and afternoon, get together with old buddies, etc. Thursday evening, tour #5, if enough desire. 300 to 340 persons will buy out the showboat for the evening.

Friday, June 3, 1983 - Possible morning tours if desired, afternoon, laze around and prepare for the closing banquet, serving to start at 7 p.m., followed by a short business meeting if we do form an association. The combo will play from 9 to midnight, open bar during these three hours.

Saturday morning, June 4, 1983 - Check out, hopefully to await the next Reunion.

I have never organized anything like this before, the nearest being a dinner-dance for about 100 people, so please have patience and give me all the assistance you can. By that I mean answer promptly of your intentions and make your reservations at the Henry VIII as soon as possible. With your help and attendance we can make this a very memorable and enjoyable occasion.

One other thing: Very little has been written about the B-24 which most of us knew, loved, cursed, and sweated over. Also, little has been written about the air war in the Pacific. I have been contacted by several historians who would like to write a History. You who have responded to the Reunion idea cover the period from 1938 through to the war's end in 1945. Will you please look up your old records, wrack your brain and jot down your experiences, nothing fancy but try to be specific with names, dates, places, serious and humorous happenings, also bring along pictures and if I can borrow them to copy, I promise they will be returned in the same condition I receive them. I will try to assemble your writings in a chronological order and coordinate it with one of the historians. If a book is published as a result, any profit that can be made will be made available to The 5th Bomb Group Association.

Check sent to
treasurer on
Jan. 20 1983
\$70.00