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92nd Bombardment Group

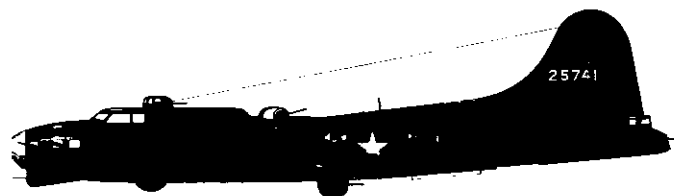
NEWS

Happy Holidays

FAMES FAVORED FEW



DECEMBER 1987



This YB-40 story was written by Jim McGrew and Walt Murphy for Pres. Charles Kelly. Part 1 will be Jim McGrew's story.

YB-40

The Concept

"As early as 1941, the Air Force believed that they could make deep penetration into Germany by using heavily armed bombers and specially designed escort bombers. These were designated as XB-40 or YB-40. Although contemplated without enthusiasm by General Eaker, it was favored by many commanders who hoped that, by mixing YB-40's with the bombers in a ratio of one YB-40 to two or three bombers, it might free the bombers from the limitations of fighter range and send them over Germany as far as their fuel would take them." ★

The Aircraft

During the winter of 1942-1943, the USAAF approved a prototype XB-40 to be converted from an early Lockheed-Vega B-17F. This was followed by an order for 13 YB-40s to be used for an operational test with the 8th Air Force in England.

The YB-40s were armed with sixteen .50 caliber Browning machine guns: two nose side guns, twin waist guns on each side, twin tail guns, Sperry upper twin turret, Martin Twin Turret in the radio compartment, Sperry ball turret, and Bendix chin turret. The aircraft were designed to carry more than three times the ammunition of the B-17, about 11,000 rounds. Electric motors fed the rounds along tracks in the waist to the rear guns. All aircraft had extra armor plate. The tail and waist were almost completely enclosed in armor plate, and additional protection was installed in other crew compartments. Because of the weight, fuel consumption was greater than for the B-17. Bomb bay fuel tanks were standard.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

I want to remind everyone about the reunion, and what a reunion it will be, that is coming up in one year in San Antonio, Texas at the Windham Hotel. It is located about a mile west of the loop on I-10. Mark your calendar-call your buddies-get special groups together-write people you haven't seen in a Coons' Age, and get the interest to the highest pitch. We want to have a great turn out, especially you old timers. Just seeing a few who have never been to one of these events, like we saw at the last reunions, makes the whole experience worth while. If you will look at page 31 or the 1987 Roster you will see why these reunions are soon going to be over. So let us make this the biggest bash of all. I'll be looking for you in San Antonio in 1988. THINK REUNION.

Charles Kelly

SAN ANTONIO IN 1988

Reunion Chairman Makes First Report:

Plans for the 1988 World-Wide Reunion of the 92nd Bomb Group are rapidly firming up according to Perry Burnham, Reunion Chairman. He provides us with the following initial report:

The main activity dates of the reunion span Thursday through Saturday, October 13th, 14th and 15th, 1988. Mark those dates on your calendar right now!

The WYNDHAM HOTEL, a fairly new, outstanding hostelry in San Antonio will be the center of operations. Two hundred fifty rooms have been space-blocked for 92nd personnel and their families at the Wyndham. Should attendance exceed these requirements, we have arranged for additional, first class hotel space at a fine, new hotel nearby. Based on a recent radar scan of member interest, we suggest that you make early reservations at the Wyndham.

Please note that all of your Hotel reservations must be made by you directly with the Wyndham Hotel. The Wyndham will book any overflow. A reservation form, with the 92nd identification



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