



## **44th Bomb Group Veterans Association**

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January 31, 2000

Emmett J. Burns, Jr.  
PO Box 8  
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Dear Emmett J. Burns, Jr.,

Happy New Year and the New Millennium to you. Our 44th BGVA has been a very strong and active organization since its founding, and as your President, I am pleased to report to you that we are confident that this first year of the new century will be an even better year for our beloved 44th BGVA as we continue with our primary project, the expansion of our 44th Bomb Group Master Database Program.

We are the leaders of the 14 Second Air Division B-24 groups in assembling a complete electronic database of the complete history of our bomb group and its World War II members. It is our goal to have this history on compact discs that will be available to our members, their descendants and friends and which will be available in a number of archival repositories for use by researchers, historians, and future generations who are interested in what we did during World War II.

This program is divided into phases. The first phase, which is virtually complete and paid for, was to enter archival material we have, specifically, approximately 8500 sortie reports. This includes all of our missions, all of our aircraft by number and name, if it is available, and the names and crew positions of all the personnel who were on those sorties. Our losses are also depicted. A roster of all personnel who served in the group is also being included.

Phase Two is the entry of personal biographical information of group members, both ground support personnel and aircrew members. We have been urging members to submit their biographical information as soon as possible so it can be included. We also have been asking widows and relatives of deceased members to submit as much biographical information as possible for those who are no longer with us.

Phase Three of the program is to enter as much historical information about the group and its people as time and finances will accommodate. Will Lundy, as our Group Historian, has accumulated, over the past some thirty years, thousands of pages of historical information and photographs about our group and its people. This information includes, but is not limited to, official records and archival material, diaries, correspondence concerning casualties and aircraft wreckage sites, records of interment places of those KIA, and much more.

It is most important that Will's material not be wasted and that it be available for the information and use of those of future generations. It is in our Group Master Database that Will's material should be kept and where it would be most available.




Phase Four will be the updating of the Master Database as required and as new information is revealed.

The entry of Will Lundy's material and selected historical information submitted by others will be expensive and can not be supported in our current or projected budgets. Entry of the material into the database will be very labor intensive and must be done primarily by employees of Computer Generated Data, with whom we have contracted to assemble our database. Therefore, our 44th BGVA Executive Committee has elected to solicit separate financial support from our members for the Phase Three effort. A goal of \$50,000 has been established. It is believed that the most important and informative of Will's material, if not all of it, could be entered as the \$50,000 becomes available.

I am appealing to you to support this program through your generous contribution. This is the first time a separate fund raising effort has been attempted within our 44th BGVA. In the past we have been able to support special projects by including them in our annual budgets. This is unquestionably the most important undertaking we can enter as it is up to us to preserve the history and legacy of those who served so heroically and admirably in the 44th Bomb Group in World War II.

The 44th Bomb Group Veterans Association has an IRS Classification of 501(c)(3)19 which means donations to it are considered to be tax deductible. Each contribution received will be acknowledged in writing. An envelope addressed to our Treasurer is included for your convenience. Please use it and make your contribution as generous as you possibly can. If you have not yet submitted your biographical information, it could also be included in the envelope. I know I can count on you to come through on this, just as 44thers always have when presented with a challenge. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

  
Edward J. Mikoloski  
President